



Board of Education

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 October 28, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM at Southside High School.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Jeannie Cole. 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, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent 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.

STUDENT, STAFF AND SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

The United Way supported Parents as Teachers Program earned National Blue Ribbon Accreditation and is now a National Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Model Affiliate. Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Parent & Community Services, Dr. Sarah Biggs and Parent Educators Angie Williams, Andrea Washington, Kayla Carter, Twynette Dixon, Sharon Garcia-Aponte, Ricky Woodward, Violeta Tello, Dana Briley and Jeanne Carroll were recognized for this monumental accomplishment as well as community volunteers who brought this kind of service to children and their families in this area. Former Board of Education member and president, Ann Patton Dawson, daughter of educator and local historian, J. Fred Patton, wife of the honorable Judge Robert Dawson was represented by her daughter, Southside teacher Courtney Beland, who launched this program with the United Way's Dot Rappeport and Angela Tilley.

Superintendent's Star Award Winners October 2019

Eddie Diaz, third grader at Pike Elementary School, Destinee Goldman, sixth grader at Tilles Elementary School, Braxton Herrera, fifth grader at Ballman Elementary School, Jillian Joyner, sixth grader at Barling Elementary School, Xin Li, sixth grader at Orr Elementary School, Ben Sanders, fourth grader at Beard Elementary School, Gracie Smith, sixth grader at Cavanaugh Elementary School, Daimian Vega, fourth grader at Sunnymede Elementary School, Robby Walker, Jr., third grader at Fairview Elementary School.

Sidrah Raache, Southside High School Senior, was recognized for her score on the PSAT by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Haris Rana, Southside High School Junior, was recognized for a perfect score of 36 on the College Board's ACT.

The Northside High School Grizzly Security Team was one of nine teams selected to participate in the 2019 U.S. Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. These students are sophomores Mateo Aguirre-Sandoval, Tony Aldana, Justin Camey and Senior Felipe Casarreal, and the team leader Janet Phommaha. They are coached by Zach Coats.

Rozanna Brown, Ballman Elementary Teacher, was recognized for earning the Arkansas Department of Education's new license as a Master Professional Educator. There are only 208 in Arkansas who have earned this designation. This new process considers a variety of credentials when qualifying candidates, including her designation two years ago as a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teacher.

Amy Gordon, Barling Elementary School Teacher, was recognized by Economics Arkansas for her Bessie B. Moore State Economics Award for her class' project *Cupid's Creations*. The Bessie B. Moore Awards Program recognizes Arkansas teachers for going "above and beyond" what is required by developing outstanding economic and personal finance projects for their students. Ms. Gordon was one of four recipients recognized with a Bessie B. Moore State Economics Award.

Gina Lewis, Southside High School Teacher, who is in her first year teaching Business at Southside High School, was recognized for completing an application process that earned Southside a position in the Amazon Future Engineers program. Amazon Future Engineers provides curriculum, college scholarships, and internships with Amazon based on participation in their curriculum.

Dr. Kelley Todd was recognized for winning a "Gold Star Award" for wise Financial Literacy Instruction. To be considered for this Gold Star Award, a teacher must achieve a 93% pass rate in at least one of their classes on either the Fall 2018 or Spring 2019 WISE Financial Literacy Certification Test. She will be honored at the annual MoneyPOWER Institute, in New York City, in early November. She was also recognized as the 12-state Southern Business Education Association Teacher of the Year. This regional honor qualifies her to compete in the National Business Education Association contest for National Secondary Teacher of the Year next spring.

Dr. Dawn Childress, Orr Elementary School Principal, was recognized for defending her dissertation titled *Engaging Teachers in Action Research to Increase Learner Agency*, completing her doctoral program in the process. She has been an active participant in many of the district's current initiatives and she is currently in Phase I of the Arkansas Leadership Academy's Master

Principal Institute. She is also certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mr. Conley Bone spoke regarding the AAA decision to leave Northside High School in the Central Conference.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Professional Staff Recommendations

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

Resignations

Certified

Sharum, Sarah
Hafkesbring, Samantha
Timjani, Bijan Karimi

Classified

Faulkner, Candace
Lairamore, Jeanne
Sisouphanh, Crystal
Trejo, Lorena
Montgomery, Christina
Racy, Stefanie
Ramirez, Magdalena
Barber, RD
Renfro, Brittany
Murali, Ponni

Retirement

Farris, Patricia

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to accept the recommendation for resignations and retirement as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment

Certified

McBryde, Robert
Southerland, Mary

Classified

Sims, Joel
Rincon, Heriberto
Bond, Tamera
Ledbetter, Tammy
Muncy, Sheri
Hontz, Susan
Victoriano, Ruth

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

AAA Update

Mr. Michael Beaumont, Director of Athletics and Activities, reported that the 16 largest schools in Arkansas did not vote by the required 2/3 margin to support the proposal put forward by both Northside and Southside High Schools to include both schools in the West Conference for the 2020-2022 cycle. As a result, Southside High School will be in the West Conference, and Northside High School will be in the Central Conference. Board members expressed the need for further discussion and action for the benefit of the students' welfare.

2020 School Election Date

Dr. Brubaker reported that Act 545 of 2019 provides for school elections to be scheduled according to the following parameters:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A), concerning the dates of an annual school election, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) The annual school election shall be held in each school district of the state:

(i) In even-numbered years, on the date of the:

(a) Preferential primary election; or

(b) General election; and

(ii) In odd numbered years, on the:

(a) First Tuesday following the first Monday in November; or

(b) Third Tuesday in May.

He reported that at its August 2017 regular meeting, the Board adopted a resolution that states that "beginning in 2018, the District shall hold its annual school elections at the time of the preferential primary election (and the corresponding date in odd-numbered years)." Because 2020 is a presidential election year and the Board's August 2017 resolution has established the preferential primary date as its election date, the 2020 FSPS School Election is scheduled for March 3, 2020. A link to the election calendar was provided. This was an information item. No action was required.

Police Cruisers Loaned by Sebastian County to the Fort Smith Public Schools Police Department

Dr. Brubaker reported that through a program offered by Sebastian County, the district is now able to expand the resources available to the new police department for the benefit of students. The FSPSPD will receive the use of three recently replaced Sebastian County Sheriff's Department police cruisers on an indefinite basis.

When a county agency receives new vehicles through its replacement cycle, vehicles that have been replaced are transferred to the possession of the county judge for disposition. The county judge has the option to loan the vehicles to smaller agencies who can continue to use them. Judge David Hudson has authorized the loan of these three vehicles to the FSPSPD. FSPS officers will use them until the district determines that they should be returned to the county for disposition. Once ready for service in our district, they will be deployed to the junior high schools on a rotating basis and otherwise utilized by FSPSPD officers as needed.

There are some costs to the district of utilizing the vehicles. To prepare them for use, Sebastian County logos will be removed from the cars by FSPS staff. Then, the vehicles will be outfitted with FSPS logos. The receiving agency is also responsible for costs related to maintenance, gas, and insurance. These recently retired police cars are reported to be in excellent condition because they have received preventative maintenance throughout their five years of use. When the district chooses to discontinue use of these three vehicles, they will be returned to the county for disposition.

Although the purchase of new police vehicles had not been planned for the FSPS Police Department, the value of this loan to the district is illustrated by the fact that three new and fully outfitted police cars would cost up to \$90,000. We are grateful for Judge David Hudson and Sebastian County for making these vehicles available to support our efforts to serve and protect our students.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the September 23 School Board Meeting, October 23 Called School Board Meeting, September Financial Report, and October Student Services Report,

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

BOND REFINANCING SAVINGS AND IMPACT OF THE PAYOFF OF TWO BOND ISSUES

Mr. Warren reviewed the following tables which show the savings in debt service payments the District has enjoyed due to refinancing existing debt over the last five years, including the savings for 2019-2020.

He reported that due to the nature of bond refinancing, the debt service savings is primarily available in the first 18 months after the bond refinancing date. The table documents that over 87% of the savings has been and will be recognized from 7/1/2015 through 6/30/2020.

New Bond Principal	New Bond Issue Date	Savings over the Life of the Bond	Savings Recognized through 6/30/2019	Savings in 2019-2020
\$8,030,000	5/30/2019	\$ 738,097.87	\$ 0.00	\$454,076.57
\$9,165,000	9/12/2017	\$ 778,596.05	\$ 748,207.33	\$ 5,495.00
\$6,410,000	4/1/2016	\$ 596,745.91	\$ 601,177.71	\$ 618.76
\$4,890,000	7/1/2015	\$ 335,685.21	\$ 320,332.71	\$ 4,030.00
	Totals	\$2,449,125.04	\$1,669,717.75	\$464,220.33

Mr. Warren reported that the following table shows the 2019-2020 savings in debt service payments the District will achieve with the early payoff of the two bond issues as listed. The bonds were paid in full on September 17, 2019.

The early retirement of these two bond issues were part of the strategy proposed by the District to add \$450 to the certified salary schedule base. This \$450 base increase was the largest increase in the last five years. No new millage proceeds were used to pay for this increase.

Original Bond Issue Date	Payoff Amount	Savings over the Life of the Bond	Savings Recognized through 6/30/2020
10/1/2010	\$1,365,340.14	\$1,460,517.50	\$274,082.50
6/1/2011	\$3,207,852.57	\$3,416,387.50	\$647,400.00
Totals	\$4,573,192.71	\$4,876,905.00	\$921,482.50

This was an informational item and no recommendation was required.

CONSIDER ADOPTING POLICY 4.14 - STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Dr. Morawski and Mr. Ney reported that Act 912 of the 2019 Arkansas Legislature requires updates to the district’s student media policy. Dr. Morawski reported that as required by law, the proposed policy update was developed in conjunction with student media advisers and school administrators. A meeting was held August 28, 2019 for discussion and feedback on the policy. For final edits, updates were shared with the group via email. The proposed policy consists of the Arkansas School Boards Association Model Policy with modifications following the input of the discussion group and a review by Mr. Marshall Ney, the district’s attorney. Mr. Ney reported that per district standards, the policy will be presented for first reading October 28, 2019, and a second reading November 18, 2019.

The administration recommended the Board approve the first reading of Board Policy 4.14 - Student Media and the Distribution of Literature. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the first reading of Board Policy 4.14 – Student Media and the Distribution of Literature. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER SELECTION OF A VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ASBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Dr. Brubaker reported that the Arkansas School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, which is the policy making body of ASBA, will meet at 4:00 PM, Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock. All ASBA-member school boards are allotted one voting representative at that meeting.

He reported that ASBA requests that the Board choose the name of one board member who will serve as its delegate at this meeting. The link to select the voting representative states that “The representative should be a current board member who plans to attend the conference and not a member of the ASBA Board of Directors (these persons automatically serve as delegates.)”

The administration recommended that the Board select one of its members who will attend the conference on December 11 to serve as its voting delegate. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to designate Mr. Hanesworth as the voting representative at the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REQUIRED BY ACT 1120 OF 2013

Ms. Penix reported that Act 1120 of 2013 (A.C.A. 6-13-635) requires a resolution by the School Board whenever an employee’s compensation is increased by 5% or more over the previous year. This resolution is presented to the auditor as part of the annual audit review.

Ms. Penix reported that many of the affected employees were in part-time positions and moved to full time. Others assumed extra duties which carry a stipend. Some simply advanced on the salary schedule based on education and experience while others got new jobs within the district with greater responsibility and higher pay. Departing employees receive severance pay as provided by policy which sometimes put them into the 5% category. She stated that the wording of the law raises some questions as to who should be included on this list, but we have always taken the approach that we will list everyone whose compensation increased by 5% or more regardless of the circumstance.

The administration recommended approval of the attached resolution. Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to approve the accompanying resolution as required by Act 1120 of 2013 (A.C.A. 6-13-635). The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Brubaker reported that in addition to celebrating the \$1.4 million grant received for the CTC Building, the Foundation has received a \$750,000 grant from the Windgate Foundation for Fine Arts Programming. Mr. George Watts, CCM, LEED AP, HPM, Dr. Morawski and Mr. Warren presented updates to the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program. Budgeted Sources and Use of Funds, milestones, project detailed financial review and gym seating were topics of discussion.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran stated that she has received several complimentary comments about Mr. Michael Beaumont, Director of Athletics and Activities.

Mr. Hanesworth reported that he was happy to see staff, students and community members involved in groundbreaking events.

Ms. McFerran thanked Ms. Lisa Miller for hosting the meeting at Southside High School

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary