



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 April 27, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM for a Virtual Board Meeting per COVID19 CDC guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Susan McFerran, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Dee Blackwell, and Mr. Dalton Person. 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, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence followed.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for Citizens Participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Current Proposals, Bids and Renewals

Mr. Warren presented information related to current bids and proposals. The following is information related to bids and proposals.

1. District Wide Area Network (WAN) E-Rate Category 1
Requested by: Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology
Selection Method: Request for Proposal
Funding Source: Operating Funds
Award: Cox Communications
Bid Count: Three (One Local and Two National Vendors)
Additional Information: This is a 5-year contract to provide the District's WAN and is supplemented by Federal E-Rate funding. The new contract increases the speed of the inter-campus computer network by a factor of ten over the current network. The speed increase will help boost our VOIP Phone initiative and Disaster Recovery methods. The

District's current Wide Area Network (WAN) contract will expire June 30th, 2020, at which time this new contracted service will begin.

2. Campus Local Area Network (LAN) Hardware E-Rate Category 2

Requested by: Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology

Selection Method: Request for Proposal

Funding Source: Operating Funds

Award: CDW

Bid Count: Three (All National Vendors)

Additional Information: This bid is to procure Local Area Network (LAN) equipment for 2 Secondary schools and 4 elementary schools. The LAN equipment on all 6 campuses will be replaced in order to provide current and future network bandwidth needs, as well as maintain vendor support and up-to-date equipment. Purchases will be made once Federal E-Rate funding is approved for these projects. Funding for this project is supplemented by Federal E-Rate funding at a discount rate of 80% of the total cost.

This was an information item. No recommendation was required.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the April 13 Called Board Meeting and March 16 Board Meeting, March Financial Report, April Professional Staff Recommendations, Approval of Personnel Recommendations 2020-2021, April Student Services Report. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

APPROVAL OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Mahan reported that new standards for 7-12 journalism and health were adopted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the 2020-2021 school year. In response to the new standards two committees that consisted of teachers, parents, students, community members, content coordinators and administrators met several times to discuss the current standards and the available resources.

Dr. Ginni McDonald and committee members Susan Colyer, Lucia Turner and Jennifer Prado presented the journal committee's recommendation to purchase Cengage Writing and Reporting News text and student workbook, and various technology-based equipment that includes Mac computers (industry standards), Dell computers (FSPS standard), camera equipment, production equipment, Adobe software, and Yearbook software.

Dr. Ginni McDonald and health committee members Ashley Lemley, Jason Meharg, Lucia Turner, and Tammy Chase presented the committee's recommendation for health to purchase CPR equipment and a learning platform called Newsela for Health.

After discussion regarding mental health/emotional health, suicide awareness and prevention, the administration recommended that the Board approve the 2020-2021 instructional materials adoption for health and journalism.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to authorize the adoption of the recommended instructional material for 7-12 health and journalism. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL OF INNOVATION PLAN FOR THE PEAK INNOVATION CENTER FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Mahan presented the 2020-2021 Schools of Innovation Statement of Assurances and the accompanying Resolution for the Peak Innovation Center for review and approval. Mr. Mahan reported that the District must submit these forms to continue the School of Innovation application process.

Mr. Gary Udouj, Director of the Peak Center reported that the School of Innovation status would allow Peak to focus on career and technical training in a traditional and creative way.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to authorize the Statements of Assurances and accompanying Resolution to approve the Peak Innovation Center's Plan of Innovation to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for designations as a School of Innovation. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL OF INNOVATION PLAN FOR DARBY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Mahan presented the 2020-2021 Schools of Innovation Statement of Assurances and the accompanying Resolution for Darby Junior High School for review and approval. Mr. Mahan reported that the District must submit these forms to continue the School of Innovation application process.

Ms. Ginni McDonald and Dr. Katie Kreimer-Hall presented the proposed Health and Science Academy School of Innovation Plan at Darby Junior High School. Dr. Kreimer-Hall explained the unique opportunity to pilot 25 sixth-grade students to apply to attend the Academy through an interview process, beginning in the Fall of 2020, increasing the number of students and grades in upcoming years.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to authorize the Statements of Assurances and accompanying Resolution to approve Darby Junior High School's Plan of Innovation to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for designations as a School of Innovation. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL OF INNOVATION PLAN FOR SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Mahan presented the 2020-2021 Schools of Innovation Statement of Assurances and the accompanying Resolution for Southside High School for review and approval. He reported that the District must submit these forms to continue the School of Innovation application process.

Ms. Ginni McDonald, and Dr. Lisa Miller presented the proposed Southside High School of Innovation Plan. Dr. Miller reported that the naming of the Academy was undecided due to a tie between survey results selecting Star Academy of Innovation and the Reach Academy of Innovation. A runoff would be held to break the tie. The School of Innovation will provide a personalized blending environment for students. Students will be able to work at their own pace. The Southside High School of Innovation would open in 2020-2021 with a maximum of 150 sophomores adding additional grade spans each year.

Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to authorize the Statements of Assurances and accompanying Resolution to approve Southside High School's Plan of Innovation to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for designations as a School of Innovation. The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Warren presented a school finance update regarding sources of new revenue for 2020-2021 and the administration's analysis of the 2020-2021 certified and classified salary schedules.

The Four Factors of Funding Historical Data

School Year	Teacher Base	Increase in Base	Teacher New Base	Millage
2015-16	\$37,500	None	\$37,500	36.5 mills
2016-17	\$37,500	\$250	\$37,750	36.5 mills
2017-18	\$37,750	\$200	\$37,950	36.5 mills
2018-19	\$37,950	\$100	\$38,050	36.5 mills
2019-20	\$38,050	\$450	\$38,500	36.5 mills

- Factor 1: Millage – Rate of tax impacting local revenue
- Factor 2: Assessed Values – Value of properties impacting local revenue

- Factor 3: Foundation Funding- Per student funding rate impacting state revenue
- Factor 4: Student Count – Student population impacting state revenue

Student count defined as Average Daily Membership for Quarters 1-3(3Q ADM)

Mr. Warren reported that the administration recommended no change to based salaries.

This was a presentation and will be brought back to the Board for approval at the May 11 Board meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Dalton mentioned the passing of Ms. Karen Davis teacher at Southside High School.

Mr. Hanesworth mentioned the passing of Mr. Phillip Garcia, Child Nutrition Director.

Mr. Hanesworth and Dr. Brubaker commended the Technology Staff for the installation of Park and Learn WIFI at schools throughout the District.

Mr. Hanesworth stated that the postponements of graduations and proms were directives from the Governor and not the District administration and this should be communicated to the public.

Ms. Richardson asked that the Human Resources Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Penix, look into the pool of education students currently in the area for future employment with the District and report back at the next work session.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary