

Board of Education

Minutes of Work Session
The Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 13, 2018, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Adult Education Center.

Board Members Present: Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness and Mr. Wade Gilkey.
Administrators and Staff Present: Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Dr. Kellie Cohen, Director of Student Achievement and Accountability, Ms. Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum and Federal Programs, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent.

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A CORRECTED LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Dr. Brubaker reported that during the May Primary Elections, a voter who resides in the Fort Smith School District was told that he was not eligible to vote in the Fort Smith Public Schools millage issue because voter registration records indicated that he was a resident of the Greenwood School District. Upon discovery of the error, the Arkansas Geographic Information System (GIS) Office researched the matter and confirmed that both school districts properly petitioned the Arkansas State Board of Education in November of 2003 to amend school district boundary lines associated with federal lands that were released for redevelopment to the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority. The proposed boundary changes were officially adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Education on November 10, 2003, but for reasons unknown revisions were never entered into the statewide map of school district boundaries that is used by the county clerk for election purposes. The Total Assessment Solutions Corporation (TASC) ArcGIS system, which is used by the county assessor, does include the changes that were approved by the State Board of Education in 2003.

Dr. Brubaker reported that to resolve this matter, the Arkansas GIS Office collaborated with the Arkansas Department of Education and Sebastian County officials to make appropriate corrections at the state and county level. Since there have not been any changes in school attendance or tax parcel allocations since the State Board of Education's approval in November of 2003, the Arkansas GIS Office made the necessary corrections in the state's system immediately.

Dr. Brubaker reported that The Arkansas GIS Office and the ADE recommend that both districts adopt these legal descriptions to place on file with the County Clerk's Office for historical purposes. Dr. Brubaker emphasized that the legal descriptions represent only technical changes

and do not change how the Sebastian County Assessor allocates real estate parcels to each district. Dr. Brubaker reported that this item will be brought to the Board to adopt the corrected legal description for the Fort Smith School District.

CONSIDER ARKANSAS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ACSIP) ASSURANCES

Mr. Mahan presented the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP). He reported that it is for a local education agency (LEA) to use in requesting district funds for covered programs under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. He reported that to assure the LEA's eligibility for funds included in the ACSIP, the Superintendent must provide an original signature attesting to compliance with all assurances applicable to each program for which the plan is submitted.

Mr. Mahan reported that the administration's recommendation is for the Board to approve the 2018-2019 ACSIP Assurances at the August 27 Board meeting and authorize the Superintendent to sign the assurances so they may be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education on or before October 1, 2018.

SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT AS EX-OFFICIO FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Dr. Brubaker reported that each year, the Board of Education designates the Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary authorizing the Superintendent to make 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. Dr. Brubaker reported that the Administration's recommendation is that the Board of Education 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 at the August 27, 2018 Board of Education meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Brubaker reported that on March 12, 2018, the Board called for a referendum on a 5.558 millage rate increase. He noted that this referendum was approved May 22, 2018, by voters in the Fort Smith Public Schools area. He reported that on April 20, 2018, FSPS Administration presented a plan for implementing the millage projects, which included the creation of a Citizens Millage Advisory Committee. Dr. Brubaker reported that the Citizens Millage Advisory Committee is to be established to provide transparency and enhance public confidence in the use of millage funds authorized by voters in May 2018. He noted that the purpose of the Committee is to monitor the progress of the millage projects and recommend ways the district can maximize the potential of the 2018 Millage Projects to the FSPS Board of Education.

Dr. Brubaker reported that the administration's recommendation is approval of the FSPS Board of Education's Charge to the Citizens Millage Advisory Committee at the August 27 Board meeting.

REVIEW OF INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Mr. Warren reviewed investment information and noted subsequent to the Board's approval of the \$90 million bond issue, the Administration released an RFI (Request for Information). The table below is a summary of information provided by the banks participating in the "ladder treasury portfolio" approach.

Bank (Wealth Management)	Fee	Comments
Arvest	20 Basis Points	Pulaski County Special School District
BancorpSouth	10 Basis Points	
Bank OZK	3 Basis Points	Trustee of \$90M Bond Issue
FNB of Fort Smith	5 Basis Points	FSPS Foundation
Regions	Tiered Structure 20/15/10 Basis Points	Bentonville Public Schools & Rogers Public Schools
Simmons	25 Basis Points	

Mr. Warren reported that Bank OZK was found to have the lowest fee structure. He reported that given the size of the bond issue, a variety of investment strategies will be considered.

CONSIDER ADOPTING 2018-2019 DISTRICT BUDGET

Mr. Warren summarized the activity for the fiscal year of 2017-2018 and presented a financial budget for the fiscal year of 2018-2019.

He described the 2018-2019 budget as transitional. He reported that the 2018-2019 budget will include a number of transitional events, including collection of new millage, bond issue of \$90 million and subsequent spending of a portion of the \$90 million.

Mr. Warren noted that these transitional events make the District's "legal fund balance" important to monitor as exemplified by the use of sinking funds and state categorical funds being restrictive in nature, yet having significant impact on the "legal fund balance". After discussion, Mr. Warren reported that the Administration will recommend that the Board at the August 27 Board meeting adopt the 2018-2019 financial budget with an expenditure total of \$191,071,240 and that the Administration to be allowed to make immaterial adjustments as required by ADE for final submission to ADE.

Ms. McFerran thanked Dr. Udouj for the Adult Education tour and for hosting the meeting that evening.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary