



Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, May 10, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Mr. Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Dee Blackwell and Mr. Wade Gilkey. Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent, 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, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported that he had attended the signing day event for Northside and Southside High School Seniors.

Dr. Morawski reported that ArcBest has generously donated \$1,000,000 to the Peak Innovation Center to fund the ArcBest Community Room. He and other board members attended that event as well.

Dr. Morawski reported that on May 17 the District will host the Retirees and Service Awards for Employees to be recognized at a picnic barbecue event this year. A change from previous years.

Dr. Morawski reported that graduations are planned for May 20 and 21 for outdoor ceremonies at this time. Backup plans are under consideration if weather is an issue on those dates.

Dr. Morawski reported that the School Board Election early voting will begin May 11 through May 17 at the Sebastian County Courthouse with May 18 Election Day at the polling sites.

Dr. Morawski reported that the May 24 Board meeting could include certification of the School Board Election results and swearing in of new board members. If the election is certified, board members will also elect board officers for the next year.

Dr. Morawski and Mr. Hanesworth presented Mr. Gilkey with a token of appreciation for his years of service to the Board. Mr. Gilkey has served as a board member since 2015.

Mr. Morawski also noted that the Adult Education graduation is May 11 at 6 p.m.

PRESENTATION - CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Dr. Morawski presented a proposed meeting calendar for July 2021 through June 2022. Regular board meetings are not scheduled on student holidays and because some months have extended holidays, there are a few meetings that are not the second Monday and fourth Monday that the District typically follows. The administration's recommendation is that the Board adopt the calendar at the May 24 board meeting.

PRESENTATION - MORRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Mr. Mahan recognized Morrison Elementary Principal Britney Watson, Assistant Principal Elizabeth Love and Mr. Hollenbeck in attendance. Mr. Hollenbeck provided a presentation of the EF1 Tornadoes storm damage from May 3, 2021, He reported that teams of engineers have surveyed the damage. There is extensive damage where the roof was pulled back. HVAC units lifted off their foundation, several picked up and moved and tremendous amount of water damage to rooms. Gas lines were shut off quickly. The recommendation from engineers and the State Department, is to not open the school until structural repairs can be made. This is 12 weeks minimum, possibly by August. Administrators and Morrison staff are working to get students relocated through the end of the school year by working with area churches. Morrison staff will accompany students as they are picked up at Morrison and bussed.

PRESENTATION - A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRIGHTWATER CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM AND THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE OF HEALTH EDUCATION

Mr. Mahan provided a presentation of the Brightwater Program. This program is a partnership with Brightwater of Northwest Arkansas Community College, the Arkansas College of Health Education (ACHE) and the Fort Smith Public Schools. The partnership will allow for wellness, nutrition and physical activity to be integrated within some of the District's Kindergarten classes. ACHE administrators Dr. Barry Owen, Dr. Kyle Parker and Dr. Elizabeth McClain were in attendance.

PRESENTATION - SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Warren presented the four factors of funding revenue projections for FY22. While three factors were positive, the student count decrease of over 340 students limited the growth of revenue for the next school year. Mr. Warren reported the new revenue and trend analysis of replacement savings would only generate enough funds to cover the cost of employees moving to a new step on the existing salary schedules. The administration will continue to review the impact of the newest allocation of ESSER funds to the current operating budget.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Richardson asked what administration was preparing to do to reimagine or revamp the District's talent structure with regard to school administrators.

Dr. Morawski stated that the plan is to continue some programs and how the District does onboarding, focusing on the first several years of an employee's hire not just the first semester or year, giving opportunities for leadership.

Ms. Richardson asked for the percentage of teachers that are applying with years of experience and zero experience.

Dr. Morawski noted that this data would be provided.

Ms. Keaton-Martin expressed to Mr. Gilkey that she had enjoyed working with him as a board member.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary