
Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Select a Graduation Plan for July 16 and 17, 2020

DATE: June 24, 2020

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Doug Brubaker, Ph.D.
Superintendent

VISION 2023 STRATEGY: Strategy 3: Instruction
Strategy 4: Learning Environment/Facilities

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

State authorities announced on April 25 that "traditional high school graduation would not be available until July 1" and that plans for graduation ceremonies scheduled to take place after July 1 would have to be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) for approval. The form for this process became available June 9.

Since then, high school principals and district staff members have surveyed students, measured bleachers, calculated seating capacities of different venues in light of state-required social distancing restrictions, gathered input from stakeholders, and created several graduation ceremony options that appear to meet state requirements. Attached are options that are pending approval by DESE and ADH. Each outdoor graduation option includes an inclement weather contingency plan. Some inclement weather contingency plans involve use of the Fort Smith Convention Center (FSCC), which is available on July 16 and 17. The FSCC has advised the district that they must also secure ADH approval to host individual events using a separate process.

RECOMMENDATION

The administration recommends that the Board select one graduation option and identify two alternate options in order of preference so that preparations for graduation on July 16 and 17 can continue should ADH and/or DESE deny approval of any option.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read ***move to select _____ as the district's primary graduation plan with _____ as the first alternate plan and _____ as the second alternate plan.***

VISION 2023 STRATEGIES - **1. Career Planning:** Develop and implement education and career pathways so that each student graduates with a viable plan and relevant skill set for his or her future. **2. Equity:** Develop and implement a system-wide plan to provide all students with the resources they need to optimize their learning. **3. Instruction:** Design, develop and implement programs to promote rigor, relevance, collaboration, critical- thinking skills and learning environments designed to meet each student's unique needs and aspirations. **4. Learning Environment/Facilities:** Align resources, facilities and technology strategically and equitably across the district to maximize security and enhance the learning environment. **5. Staffing:** Recruit and retain highly-qualified faculty, staff and administration. **6. Technology:** Provide appropriate technology that is consistently available, effectively supported and equitably distributed for group and individual instruction. **7. Wellness:** Develop and train empathetic and nurturing employees to be sensitive to and supportive of the needs of all children and families.