

**FORREST CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

President, Joey Astin, called the April 16, 2020 board meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present: Mrs. Sandra Taylor; Mrs. Evetta Whitby; Mr. Larry Devasier; Mr. Joey Astin; Ms. Evette Boyd; Mrs. Annie Norman; Mrs. Yolanda Mason and Dr. Tiffany Hardrick, Superintendent.

ELECTION OF 2020/2021 BOARD OFFICERS

The election of 2020/2021 officers are as follows:

Sandra Taylor, President - Nominated by Mr. Joey Astin, seconded by Ms. Evette Boyd - no other nominations; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annie Norman, Vice President - Nominated by Mrs. Evetta Whitby and seconded by Ms. Evette Boyd; motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Evette Boyd, Secretary - Nominated by Mr. Joey Astin and seconded by Mrs. Evetta Whitby; the motion carried unanimously.

AMEND AGENDA

President, Mrs. Sandra Taylor, recommended the amending of the agenda to add Approval of Minutes - February 27, 2020 and the approval of January 1-31, 2020 expenditure report to the agenda. Mr. Larry Devasier moved to approve and Mrs. Yolanda Mason seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Sandra Taylor moved the February 27, 2020 board minutes be approved by acclamation. Ms. Evette Boyd moved to approve. Mrs. Evetta Whitby seconded. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Sandra Taylor recommended the board approve the January 1-31, 2020 expenditure report be approve by acclamation. Ms. Evette Boyd moved and Mr. Joey Astin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT'S ACT 1240 EXTENSION REQUEST

Dr. Tiffany Hardrick, Superintendent, spoke to board members about the issue of Act 1240 waivers the district currently has with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The certification waivers will expire in June, 2020. Therefore, the district would need to seek an extension from the DESE as soon as

possible. Dr. Hardrick recommended the board grant her approval to seek said extensions contingent upon the approval of the DESE. Ms. Evette Boyd moved to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Mrs. Yolanda Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

BOND REFINANCING

Dr. Hardrick spoke to board members about the possible refinancing of the district's bonds with the help of Mr. Michael McBryde, with Stephens, Inc., He spoke to the financial documents that were previously forwarded to board members which outlined the possibility of refinancing the district's bonds. Mr. McBryde told board members with refinancing; the district has the possibility of saving \$271,383.02. He encouraged the board to keep in mind that the information on the memo is subject to change due to the market. Mr. McBryde informed the board if they approve the Resolution it will allow Stephens, Inc. to be the district's advisor and to file the application with the Department of Education. Once filed, Mr. McBryde stated it would take about two weeks before the authorization to sell bonds will be issued. Mr. McBryde stated that if interest rates move away from the point of saving the district money, the board could reject bids and only be out of the money needed to publish the notices of the bond sale. Dr. Tiffany Hardrick recommended board members approve the Resolution. Mr. Larry Devasier moved to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Evetta Whitby. The motion carried unanimously.

AMI UPDATE

Dr. Tiffany Hardrick gave board members an AMI update and informed board members that the district's technology team, under Chris Howard, have been absolute amazing. The team has been working diligently to supply teachers and student with devices and internet to help continue with their education. The Arkansas Virtual School had been a huge help as well as grades five through twelve utilizing Zoom. Lower grades have been utilizing Arkansas PBS and Google Classroom. She stated surveys were done on each student in the district to see if they have a device and internet. If the students didn't have a device, they were given an iPad or a laptop depending on their grade. It was reported the 50 - 55% of students have both.

Dr. Hardrick stated each school developed and are following a plan of action. Two of the district's buses are being used for hotspots and are being placed in areas of the community that have a heavy student population. The students can log onto their devices with these Wi-Fi internet hotspots which will allow them to do their work. Dr. Hardrick stated the district is not at 100%, but the district is doing everything they can to reach as many students as possible. She noted the district is working

closely with the DESE on how to help students who have an IEP. She stated the district wants to ensure every student receives what they need. District food service workers were praised for their hard work as they've been providing meals since the beginning of the shutdown.

Dr. Tiffany Hardrick told board members the district is still trying to engage seniors. Scholarship applications and similar work has continued during the shutdown. She told the board that next week the seniors will be receiving their cap and gowns. Plans haven't been made for a graduation ceremony and the senior trip has been cancelled.

MAY BOARD MEETING

The next regular scheduled board meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Forrest City Jr. High library.

ADJOURNMENT 6:25 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Ms. Evette Boyd, Secretary

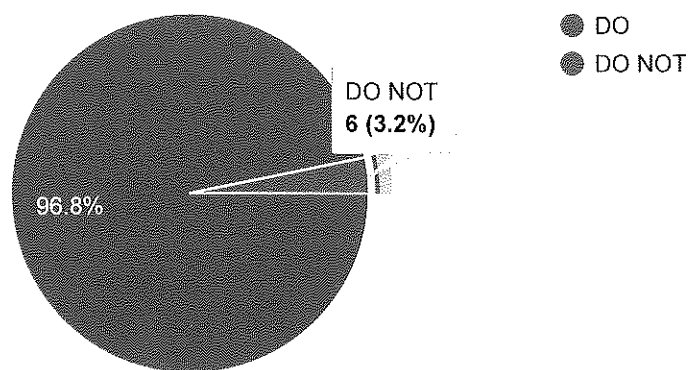
Act 1240 Waiver Survey

186 responses

Publish analytics

As a district staff member, I _____ support the continuation of the 1240 waiver. The waiver allows teachers seeking certification to continue to hold the position of classroom teacher.

186 responses



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