



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 August 26, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, 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.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mark Ahlert spoke about his concerns with the Southside High School mascot, architectural mascot design of Southside High School.

Mr. Jason Green, FSPS graduate, expressed thanks to the Board and Superintendent for leadership and vision for the progress since the FSPS Strategic Plan that was put in place two years ago.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Ms. Penix to present the professional staff recommendations. There were no leaves of absence.

Professional Staff Recommendations

Resignations

Certified
Erke, Susan

Classified

Cloud, Misty
Hilburn, Ashley
Williams, Pamela

Retirement

Certified

Bodnar, Paula

Classified

Vicki Davis

Ms. Talicia Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Hanesworth, to accept the recommendations for resignations and retirement as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment

Certified

Swearingen, Alyssa
McKeown, Brayden
Jackson, Susan
Stocking, Jasmine (Meyer)
Albright, Alice
Efurd, Carrah
Poirier, Kandice
Rambo Teresa
Herring, Brandon
Pritchett, Peggy
Kann, Veda (Cooper)

Classified

Sargent, Chantrie
Maddox, Stephanie
Turner, Megan
Mazariegos, Jessika
Sisouphanh, Crystal
Hollander, Gloria

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Student, Staff & School Recognitions

Ms. Nicole Shaffer, Principal at Fairview Elementary School
Mr. Clint Gillman, Assistant Principal at Sutton Elementary School
Ms. Sarah Jane Mayer, Assistant Principal at Cook Elementary School
Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Supervisor of Facilities
Ms. Michelle Burnett, Assistant Principal at Euper Lane Elementary School
Ms. Elizabeth Love, Assistant Principal Trusty Elementary School
Amy Griggs, Assistant Principal at Fairview Elementary School
Lt. Col. Jason Meharg, Assistant Principal at Chaffin Junior High School
Mr. Jared Meyers, Assistant Principal at Northside High School
Ms. Tammy Chase, Assistant Principal at Kimmons Junior High School

Barling Elementary School students Layla Randels, Madison Nixon, Jaxon Waite, and Patsy Graham won first in the state and qualified to compete at the National History Day Competition in Baltimore Maryland. Their team, A Fort of Hope, placed 10th of 101 international teams. The team's sponsors were Teresa Johnson and Jennifer Shure. Leslie Higgins, Education Director for the US Marshals Museum, introduced, promoted and supported this important learning and recognition program district-wide.

Chaffin Junior High School Quiz Bowl team members, Vivian Apple, Lindsey Garretson, Zain Rana, Jacob Reeder and Jackson Wollscheid won the Chicago National Quiz Bowl Championship in early June. Vivian Apple and Jackson Wollscheid were recognized as co-recipients of the Most Valuable Player. These champions are supported by their parents and their dedicated sponsors Logan Hoopes, Travis Minor.

Northside High School's production of "Once on This Island" was in the national spotlight. Four students have been recognized for their performance by National Youth Arts Council. Madeleine Newman won the award for her performance as Erzulie. The National Youth Arts Council selection committees, who select winners from videos submitted throughout the nation, were also impressed by Wailon Heuangwilai as Agwe, Abby Hope as Asaka, and Angel Keohacksa as Papa Ge. Their sponsors Robyn Fowler and Katy Featherston directed and supported these students and the rest of the cast in bringing this show to life.

Ballman Elementary School Principal Lori Griffin was a recipient of the first Rebecca DuFour Scholarship, which honors Becky's legacy for leadership and service in education. This award honored 10 women in the nation for continuing Becky's vision of improving schools and outcomes for students in their school communities. Lori was the only educator in Arkansas identified for this distinction. Additionally, she is the Fort Smith Association of Educational Office Professionals 2019 Educational Administrator of the Year.

Gordon Manley, Northside High School Director of Bands, was recently recognized as the 2019 Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year by the Arkansas Bandmasters Association. Mr. Manley is beginning his 34th year as a band director in Arkansas and was honored nationally last year as a John Phillips Sousa Laureate. With this latest state-wide designation, he joins a distinguished

line of other Fort Smith band directors including Audra Cowan, Stan Cate, Richard Peer, Prissy Buchanan, Mike Croom, Duane Walker and John Combs.

Dejah Stephens, 5th/6th grade teacher at Orr Elementary School, was nominated and named the Fort Smith Public Schools Teacher of the Year in the 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Program and named as one of 15 regional finalists. Dejah was recognized by Governor Asa Hutchinson in early August. She is certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards in English Language Arts/Early Adolescence.

Dr. Kelley Todd, Southside High School Business Teacher, was honored at the 2019 Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Educators as the organization's Teacher of the Year. Dr. Todd, who earned a Doctorate of Education in Human Resource and Workforce Development from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 2015, is highlighted in comments made by Southside Graduate John Freeny in the video that was posted on our website.

Kathy Ewing teaches 9th-12th grade Language Arts, Oral Communications, and Journalism at Belle Point Center: A New Tech Academy was selected as the Arkansas Association of Alternative Educators 2019 Teacher of the Year. She discussed her experience as an alternative educator at this organization's state conference and at the New Tech conference. She was nominated by former colleague Melissa Trangmar.

Southside High School was one of only 1,722 public high schools in the United States selected for the 2019 Great Schools College Success Award by Great!Schools.org. These awards recognize and celebrate public schools that are doing an outstanding job of preparing graduating seniors for postsecondary success.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the July 22 School Board Meeting, July 29 Called School Board Meeting and the August 12 Called School Board Meeting, and July Financial Report, and August Student Services Report.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER ADOPTING 2019-2020 DISTRICT BUDGET

Dr. Brubaker reported that the 2019-2020 District Budget was reviewed by the Board at the August 12 Work Session.

The Administration recommended the Board adopt the 2019-2020 financial budget with an expenditure total of \$235,606,909. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to adopt the 2019-2020 financial budget as presented, allowing the Administration to make immaterial adjustments required by ADE. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE CITY OF FORT SMITH

Dr. Brubaker reported that at its meeting on August 12, the Board heard a presentation about the District's ongoing partnership with the City of Fort Smith to jointly fund and deploy four (4) School Resource Officers (SROs). The SRO program with FSPD represents an annual investment on the part of each entity of approximately \$120,000 in the safety and security of our students. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) details the responsibilities of the District and the City within this partnership. The administration recommends approval of the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the attached School Resource Officer Program Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Fort Smith. The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - CLASS SIZE TRANSFER PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Layes presented on class size transfers within the district. He recognized committee members which included Student Services Staff, Administrators, Parents, Teachers, an Elementary School Secretary and five elementary parents. This committee met in three consecutive months to discuss and study the issue of class sizing students in hope of finding ways to reduce the number of students that are class sized from elementary schools each fall.

Several list of actions were developed by the committee and implemented for the 2019-20 school year to address concerns with class sizing. Mr. Layes reported that these efforts resulted in less class sizing transfers during the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

PRESENTATION - AMBASSADOR TOUR

Ms. Dawn Childers, Ms. Jennifer Steele, Ms. Shaffer and Ms. Penix provided an update to the Board which highlighted the three ambassador tours and what these community members were able to see happening in the Fort Smith School District.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran recognized former Mayor Sandy Sanders who was in attendance. Mr. Sanders stated that he just wanted to see what was going on in the District.

Ms. Keaton-Martin commended the FSPS District administrators for their commitment and many hours during recent floods.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary