



Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, September 26, 2022, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Blackwell, president, called the meeting to order noting all seven board members were present. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Mr. Phil Whiteaker. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Community and Business Partnerships; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance via Zoom.

The mission statement was followed by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Marshall presented the following recognitions.

September Superintendent Star Awards

Avianna Brown, Orr Elementary School
Adelyn Cahoon, Booneville Elementary School
Abby Clunn, Euper Lane Elementary School
Emma Lopez, Beard Elementary School
Lyli Mendoza, Barling Elementary School
Janae Owens, Carnall Elementary School
Evee Wasson, Cook Elementary School
Carol Webber, Woods Elementary School

Other Recognitions

Six students from Southside High School were selected as the recipients of the College Board National Recognition Program. Avery Herrera, Kobe Gonzales and Tzideny Romero: National Hispanic Recognition Award; Dipa Patel and Vincente Otero: National African American Recognition Award; and Jackson Miller: National Indigenous Award

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named Southside seniors Myles Flanders, Lucas Jackson, Jackson Miller, Tu Nguyen, Zain Rana and David Rotaru as National Merit Scholar Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported the Continuous Improvement Planning discussions have begun. This process will continue through October and those findings and feedback will be reported to the Board at a later date.

Dr. Morawski reported enrollment was up by nine students from the same school day as last year.

Dr. Morawski provided an update of upcoming dates and opportunities for the Board.

Janelle Keating, an expert on Professional Learning Communities, will hold a session for the Board to hear about this process on October 6, 2022.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be October 24, 2022.

The November regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on November 14, 2022. Several items on the November agenda will include the annual report to the public, school improvement plans, as well as an update to the curriculum audit process.

The Arkansas School Board Association will hold their annual conference December 7-9, 2022 in Little Rock, AR.

The final meeting for the year will be held on December 12, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included August 22 Minutes, August Financial Report, September Professional Staff Recommendations, September Student Services Report, and selection of Superintendent as Ex-Officio Financial Secretary.

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

PRESENTATION - SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Ms. Freeman presented an update on the District's ongoing efforts to implement career pathways and ensure student success. She detailed the model for success which include awareness, exploration, planning, and preparation. Ms. Freeman stated a new art program will begin in the fall of 2023 called Emerging Art and Design.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

CONSIDER APPROVING ETHICS DISCLOSURE RESOLUTION

As required by the Arkansas Department of Education, ethics disclosures promotes the transparency of the District entering into transactions with entities that are owned or controlled by District employees.

Mr. Warren presented a resolution that would cover employees that have a direct or indirect financial interest in new vendors and vendors already used by the District.

Mr. Warren also presented a list of disclosures that were previously approved by the Board to continue this school year. The Administration monitors these transactions and contracts to ensure further disclosure is not needed.

The administration recommended the Board approve the ethics disclosure and resolution as presented. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the ethics disclosure resolution. The motion passed 7-0.

CONSIDER APPROVING ETHICS DISCLOSURE RESOLUTION- BLAYLOCK

At 6:26 p.m., Mr. Blaylock recused himself from this agenda item.

Ethics disclosures promotes the transparency of the District entering into transactions with entities that are owned or controlled by Directors of the School Board.

Mr. Warren presented a resolution to conduct business with Blaylock Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. on a limited basis for the 2022-2023 school year. The Administration will closely monitor these transactions.

The administration recommended the Board approve the ethics disclosure and resolution. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the ethics disclosure resolution. The motion passed 6-0.

Note: Mr. Blaylock returned to the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION OF THE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF COMMODITIES

Mr. Warren reported that District policies allow the Superintendent to submit a list of surplus commodities to the Board for authorization to sell such surplus commodities. These commodities were requested to be auctioned to the general public on a tentative date of November 10, 2022.

Commodities not sold are considered to have no fair market value and will be disposed by the District.

The Administration recommended that the Board consider authorizing the sale or disposal of the commodities as listed. Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the sale or disposal of the commodities as listed. The vote passed 7-0.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS

Mr. Warren reported according to the guidelines of the Clean Fuels Grant in which Fort Smith Public Schools received three propane powered buses, three diesel buses must be scrapped. The Grant paid for \$25,000 towards each bus. There may be some collection of funds for the value of the buses' scrap metal.

The Administration recommended the Board consider authorizing the disposal of the commodities as listed. Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the disposal of the fixed assets as listed. The vote passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION - HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Warren discussed the cost of health insurance to the District and to employees and the significant changes for 2023 as set by the Employee Benefits Division (EBD). The wellness discounts on premiums have been removed for the upcoming year. In 2022, Fort Smith Public Schools paid \$250 a month towards health care insurance, which was \$81.48 more than the state minimum required to pay. In 2023, the employer requirements changed to \$300 a month minimum for every plan. Employees will also see a significant monthly increases to the health insurance cost. This increase will be effective on the December 31 pay check. Dental and vision rates will remain the same for 2023.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Velasquez gave a presentation on the progress of construction throughout the District. He detailed current projects, the budget breakdown of ESSER funded projects, a timeline of the projects, and a quick description of each project.

This was an information item and no recommendation is required.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Blackwell recapped an item for future feedback: data related to area attendance exceptions regarding student conflict.

Mr. Person requested an examination of rezoning our district. He requested when the last time rezoning had been looked at and is it recommended to bring in a consultant to look at the scope of this work.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Dee Blackwell, President

Dalton Person, Secretary