



Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, October 24, 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 six board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Dalton Person, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Mr. Phil Whiteaker. Ms. Talicia Richardson was not in attendance. 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. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Shawn Shaffer; Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director, Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

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

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Cooper presented the following recognitions.

October Superintendent Star Awards

Sebastian Arevalo Anaya – Fairview Elementary School
Corin Biernacki – Morrison Elementary School
Daira Bonilla – Sunnymede Elementary School
LaShaunda Criswell – Park Elementary School
Lucas Grimes – Ballman Elementary School
Mikah Inthavongsa – Spradling Elementary School
Melissa Lopez – Howard Elementary School
April Martinez – Trusty Elementary School
Pablo Robles – Tilles Elementary School
Isabella Santoyo – Sutton Elementary School

Mark Minnick

Southside High School Psychology teacher Mr. Mark Minnick has been recognized by the Yale University Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a recipient of the 2022 Yale Educator Award. Mr. Minnick is only one of 48 teachers in the world to receive this recognition.

Charles Warren, Leigh Christian and Child Nutrition Staff

Charles Warren, in collaboration with Leigh Christian, Director of Child Nutrition and child nutrition managers Gwen Anderson, Tammy Andrews, Robin Falleur and child nutrition staff, Shirley Jordan, Gloria Rivera, Maria Cabral, Veronica Cluck, Norma Branch, Judy McGlothlin, Miriam Bello, Zenaida Diaz-Reyes, and Beth Bollinger received the 2022 Pinnacle of Excellence Award. Mr. Warren is receiving this

award for the temporary off-site kitchen to feed our high school students while their schools were under construction.

Dee Blackwell

Dee Blackwell, FSPS Board of Education President, has received the Certificate of Boardmanship Award for completing 25 hours of ASBA training credit.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski's report on Good Things Going on in the District included: I Love You Guys foundation reunification training, I Can Career Expo held at Peak Innovation Center, Bonneville Elementary donated items and money to the Fort Smith Animal Haven, Beard Elementary received shoes donated by the Fort Smith Noon Exchange Club, and Spradling celebrated ACT Aspire scores with a fine dining experience.

Dr. Morawski provided an update on upcoming dates and events. The final public meeting regarding the Continuous Improvement Process is scheduled for November 1, 2022. The next regularly scheduled board meetings will be held on November 14, 2022 and December 12, 2022.

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

A Be Pro Be Proud event will be held at Peak Innovation Center March 13-15, 2023. This event will be aimed at all Fort Smith seniors and students from around the region.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included September 26 Minutes, September Financial Report, October Professional Staff Recommendations and October Student Services Report.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

SELECTION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR ASBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Dr. Morawski reported that the Arkansas School Boards Association Delegate Assembly would meet at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 7, 2022 during the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock.

Dr. Morawski stated the Board typically nominates the President of the Board to serve as the delegate but in case the delegate was not able to attend he recommended selecting an alternate.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to designate Ms. Dee Blackwell as the voting representative and Ms. Sandy Dixon as the alternate at the ASBA Annual Conference in Little Rock. The vote passed 6/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION REQUIRED BY ACT 1120 OF 2013

Dr. Davis presented this reoccurring annual item for consideration. Dr. Davis commented that this item details the variation in compensation of at least five percent or more for employees over the previous year.

Mr. Person recused himself from voting on this item due to having a family member on the list of employees.

Ms. Dixon made a motion, approved by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the resolution as required by Act 1120 of 2013. The vote passed 5/0.

Mr. Person returned to the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS

Mr. Warren submitted a list of items to approve for sale or disposal, this was in addition to the list approved at the September Board meeting. Mr. Warren reported an auction is planned for November 10, 2022.

Mr. Blaylock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to authorize the sale or disposal of the commodities as listed. The vote passed 6/0.

PRESENTATION - DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW

Trent Smith with Zonda Education presented an in-depth demographic update and projections related to student population trends, local economic impact, capacity of buildings and a ten year planning forecast.

The study showed the District can expect enrollment to remain relatively flat over the next ten years serving approximately 14,380 students in 2032-33.

Mr. Person recommended that the Board take a closer look at student population and school capacities of the two high schools in the short term and next year look at the elementary schools.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

PRESENTATION - SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER UPDATE

Ms. Keri Tucker, School Based Health Center Coordinator, discussed the first year of operation of the health center and their focus on the health of Fort Smith Public School's students and staff. The success of the center has been due to a partnership among Fort Smith Public Schools, Mercy Clinic – Fort Smith, and Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center.

Scott Savage, Nurse Practitioner for Mercy, Rebecca Henson, Licensed Counselor with Western Arkansas Counseling Guidance Center, and Brandy Seton, Social Worker with Western Arkansas Counseling shared stories of their experience of working at the School Based Health Center.

In the first year of services the School Based Health Center has provided medical care to 514 students and 674 adults, mental health support to 1,883 students, 85 classroom presentations on prevention and wellness and the center has served students from 25 of the 26 school campuses.

Mr. Mahan presented the operational cost to Fort Smith Public Schools over the last five years and what the annual cost will be in the future after the grant expires at the end of 2024-2025. Mr. Mahan also presented the cost to construct a permanent facility.

PRESENTATION - DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Velasquez gave a presentation on the progress of construction and projects that are under consideration throughout the District. He highlighted the construction of the School Based Health Center, child nutrition center freezer upgrade, Peak Innovation Center drainage, addition of a storm shelter at Peak Innovation Center and additional parking at Peak Innovation Center. These updates and construction would cost would total an estimated \$7,200,000. \$900,000 of that would be for the child nutrition freezer upgrade and would be used with ESSER funding. Mr. Velasquez also provided a status of ongoing projects in the District and each stage they are in.

Concerning the Peak Innovation Center drainage, the administration recommends (Option 4) filling in the east parking lot and constructing a new asphalt lot and creating a detention pond at the east end of the property.

Mr. Warren confirmed funds for these projects will come from the capital projects funds.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to move forward with funding the construction of the Peak Innovation additional parking lot, the recommended option 4 for drainage at Peak, and the school based health center facility as listed. The vote passed 6/0.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Dee Blackwell, President

Dalton Person, Secretary