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## Board of Education

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Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, August 23, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Matt Blaylock, and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. District administration 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; Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships; Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Director of Facilities, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Office Manager to the Superintendent.

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

Mr. Eckelhoff arrived at 5:35 p.m.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Samantha Rivas, Northside High School student, spoke concerning student dress code.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski provided an update on positive student and staff COVID cases. He stated that he was encouraged by the low transition rates in schools and believed the mask requirement contributed particularly to the lower number of quarantines.

Dr. Morawski reported to a follow up question from board members regarding COVID leave. He reported that 47% or 938 employees used COVID leave provided by the District last year for a total of 7,357 days used. The average number of days used was eight days. 48 employees or 5% used the leave to care for a child who either had COVID or was quarantined.

Dr. Davis recognized the following employees in new positions in the District.

Kelly Davis - Director of Human Resources

Jeff Prewitt - Southside, Principal

Matthew Hominick - Belle Point, Director  
Laura Gladden - Ballman, Principal  
Ami Griggs - Fairview, Principal  
Elizabeth Love - Spradling, Principal  
Nikki Kilgore - Northside, Assistant Principal  
Meagan Reinhart - Northside, Assistant Principal  
Rachael Foster - Southside, Assistant Principal  
Jeff Mosby - Southside, Assistant Principal  
Donna Jones - Ballman/Bonneville, Assistant Principal  
Cedra Flake - Cook, Assistant Principal  
Jenfer Lyon - Fairview Assistant Principal  
Kacee Kareus - Morrison/Trusty, Assistant Principal  
Amanda Ming - Park, Assistant Principal  
LTC Jason Meharg - Northside, Assistant Principal **(Not in attendance)**  
Dustin Clark - Chaffin, Assistant Principal **(Not in attendance)**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included July 12 Minutes, August 9 Minutes and August 12 Minutes, June and July Financial Reports, August Professional Staff Recommendations, and August Student Services Report, selection of Superintendent as Ex-Officio, and approval of the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act of 2018 Statement of Assurances.

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVING ETHICS DISCLOSURE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Warren presented an ethics disclosure resolution for approval for new employee, Delena Bass. Ms. Bass is a direct owner of Bass Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Novus Windshield Repair. As required by the Arkansas Department of Education/Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, ethics disclosures promote the transparency of the District entering into transactions with entities that are owned or controlled by District employees.

This resolution covers the new employee that has a direct financial interest in a vendor already used by the District. The District desired to continue using this vendor as necessary.

The second list of disclosures were previously approved by a School Board resolution that continues through this school year. The Administration monitors these contracts and transactions to ensure further disclosure is not needed. No action is needed on this list.

The administration recommended that the board approve the ethics disclosure and resolution as presented. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eckelhoff, to approve the ethics disclosure resolution. The vote passed 7/0.

**CONSIDER ADOPTING 2021-2022 DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mr. Warren summarized the activity for the fiscal year of 2020-2021 and presented a financial budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Mr. Warren addressed the four factors of funding: Student Count, State Foundation, Assessed Value, and Millage Rate.

Mr. Warren reviewed the budget summary – legal fund balance of all funds for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year as of July 1 of both fiscal years. Mr. Warren reviewed Operating Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Federal Funds, and Child Nutrition Fund budgets and actual balances for the 2021-2022 year. This included revenue and expenses.

After discussion, the Administration recommended that the Board adopt the 2021-2022 financial budget as presented.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to accept the 2021-2022 financial budget as presented.

Mr. Warren requested that the motion be amended to authorize the administration to make adjustments as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of Arkansas for final submission to DESE.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to amend the motion to adopt the 2021-2022 financial budget as presented authorizing the administration to make adjustments required by DESE. The vote passed 7/0.

With no further discussion, Ms. McFerran called for a vote to approve the motion as amended. The vote passed 7/0.

**PRESENTATION - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND UPDATE**

Mr. Mahan stated that over the past year, the Board was updated on ESSER I and II funds. This presentation was to update the Board on ESSER III funding. ESSER III funding is the largest amount allocated to the District. Mr. Mahan noted that a committee was formed to discuss funding for instructional costs, loss of learning, spacing and other COVID related items. The committee was then scaled down to a smaller task force that meets regularly to determine how to best use these funds provided to the District to safely sustain the safe operation of schools impacted by COVID. Mr. Mahan reported that it was required that the District’s plan be submitted to the State and placed on the District website. He noted that there is some flexibility in moving monies between categories.

Mr. Warren reviewed the following source of funds and categories of ESSER funds.

**SOURCE of FUNDS**

CARES - ESSER I ALLOCATION \$4,308,433.45  
CARES - ESSER II ALLOCATION \$16,952,200.75  
ARP - ESSER III ALLOCATION \$38,114,146.55  
TOTAL FUNDS \$59,374,780.75

PRIOR YEAR EXPENDITURES: FY20 EXPENDITURES \$73,079.54, FY21 EXPENDITURES \$7,318,954.95, TOTAL \$7,392,034.49

FY22 thru FY24 BUDGET: AVAILABLE FUNDS \$51,982,746.26

This budget is available through fiscal year 2024 for expenses in the following categories: Learning Loss, Mental Health Support, Extended Learning Opportunities, Education Technology, Coordinating Activities for Digital Learning, Emergency Response, Sanitation Supplies, Continuity of Operations and Employment, Food Service, Facility Repairs and Improvements, Improve Air Quality, and Transportation.

Mr. Person requested a follow up presentation or report back on office space and the Stakeholders Facilities Plan since it was a considerable amount with \$11.2 million earmarked. Dr. Morawski stated that this category would have further development.

This was a presentation item and did not require action.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Keaton-Martin commended staff and parents for their support of the District students.

#### **ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Dee Blackwell, Secretary