



Board of Education

Minutes of Work Session
The Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held December 2, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Board Members Present: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Wade Gilkey and Mr. Bill Hanesworth. Ms. Susan McFerran was absent. Administrators and Staff Present: Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Vance Gregory, Executive Director of Technology, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent.

Mr. Hanesworth, vice president, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

FACILITY RENTAL POLICY PROPOSAL

Dr. Brubaker stated that since the District will be bringing multimillion dollar project renovations to the facilities, the administration decided it was a good time to review the District's rental policy. Dr. Morawski, Mr. Hollenbeck and Mr. Ney have been reviewing policy recommendations for changes to the existing policy. Mr. Bill Hollenbeck, Director of Security and Facilities, reviewed general procedures and regulations for facility rentals. This was an informational item. A policy will be presented to the board at a later date.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING 2018-2019 AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Warren introduced Mr. Marc Lux to present the 2018-2019 audit report. Mr. Lux stated that this report reflects some of the highlights of the financial position of the District as of June 30, 2019. He stated that the report includes an unmodified opinion. He stated that everything was fairly presented in all material respects in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting. Mr. Lux reviewed the balance sheets of the general fund, special revenue, other aggregate and fiduciary types.

The administration recommends the board consider accepting the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2019 as prepared by Przybysz & Associates, CPAs at the December board meeting. The administration recommended that the Board accept the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2019 as prepared by Przybysz & Associates, CPAs at the December 16 Board Meeting.

PRESENTATION - CALENDAR OPTIONS FOR 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEARS

Dr. Brubaker reported that the administration had met with the FSPS Personnel Policy Committee and was proposing a two year calendar for approval. He noted that legislation could meet in the future and make decisions that could affect these options and the district might have to adjust accordingly.

Dr. Morawski reviewed the following calendar options for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year and noted that the administration would recommend adopting a two-year calendar for planning purposes.

The major changes reflected on this year's calendars include: a change of the Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule and the adoption of a two-year calendar. The District's waiver for the start date of school filed in 2017 is in the third year of a five-year approval.

Additionally, the State-mandated holidays are included for Labor Day, Spring Break, and Memorial Day. Other features of the calendar include:

- Meets the State requirement of less than 50 and more than 40 days per quarter
- A start date mandated under a state waiver.
- 178 student days and two parent-teacher conference days.
- 193 teacher contract days
- A full week holiday for Thanksgiving.
- A two-week Winter Break.
- A Statewide Mandated Spring Break.
- Holidays on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Good Friday.

Mr. Hanesworth stated that this item would come back as an action item at the December 16 Board meeting.

Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) LEGAL UPDATE

Dr. Brubaker stated that Mr. Ney has been invited to the December 16 board meeting. Dr. Brubaker also stated that Ms. Brooks has begun to schedule meetings with local legislators and FSPS administrators to discuss the AAA decision to split Northside and Southside high schools into two conferences.

OTHER

Ms. Richardson expressed concern that classified staff are required to use sick leave if inclement weather occurs and employee doesn't report for work. Dr. Brubaker stated that under the Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) certified staff are responsible for being available to students and answering questions related to school work. All others who don't work with students directly can use a personal, vacation and the newest option is to use a sick day. Another option is comp time. He stated that the district has a generous leave policy and

that we have to be careful of gifting time. He stated that we will continue to review and explore other options.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary