



Board of Education

Minutes of
The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, March 26, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, and Ms. Susan Krafft. Ms. Sandy Dixon was not present. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Shawn Shaffer; Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director, Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Morawski introduced the Honorable Sam Terry to swear in new board member, Ms. Lynnett Lott and existing board member Ms. Susan Krafft.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reminded the board of several upcoming events. The district offices and schools will be closed for holiday on Friday, March 29, 2024. The next regular school board meeting will be on Monday, April 22, 2024. Northside High School will host graduation on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Southside High School's graduation will be on Friday, May 17, 2024.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Dr. Morawski stated that officer elections can be nominated as a slate of officers or individually.

Mr. Whiteaker nominated a slate of officers consisting of Mr. Person, President; Mr. Whiteaker, Vice President; and Mr. Chitwood, Secretary. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-2 with Mr. Blaylock and Ms. Richardson opposing.

DESIGNATION OF BOARD DISBURSING OFFICERS

Mr. Warren explained the disbursement officer is the school board member that is designated as a signator for checks from the accounts payable file. It is typically the role of the president.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to nominate Mr. Person as primary Board Disbursing Officer and Mr. Whiteaker as alternate Board Disbursing Officer to serve until the next annual election. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to adopt the resolution designating Mr. Person as primary Board Disbursing Officer and Mr. Whiteaker as alternate Board Disbursing Officer to service until the next annual election. The motion passed 7-0.

CONSIDER APPROVING PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented.

The motion passed 7-0.

PEAK THIRD PARTY REPORT

Mr. George Feathers with Envista Forensics presented a summary of the findings regarding the roof drainage investigation. Mr. Feathers' summary covered the roof plan drainage overview and the roof drain lines from the building to the outlets.

Using the Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Manufacturers Association (SMACMA) guidelines for downspouts and gutters, eleven of the fifteen downspouts on the east wing north facet, were undersized, meaning during heavy or heavy moderate storms these downspouts cannot handle the amount of water coming off the roof. The gutter is 335 feet long with no expansion joints and breaks. The recommendation from SMACMA is 50 feet between expansion joints and a gutter system, therefore multiple expansion joints are missing. Another issue with the gutter system is the underground downspouts transition from a rectangular downspout to a six inch corrugated underground drainage pipe.

Mr. Feathers stated the east wing south facet roof drainage and piping system is appropriately sized although there are issues with the installation. The drainage system on the west wing east facet was also investigated and this system was designed and sized appropriately with the correct number of drains, however there were three issues with the roof drain system. These issues were single ply roofing material was laid over the top of the roof drains which reduced the opening of the pipe. The second issue is there is no apparent attachment between the roof drain and the roof membrane. The third issue is the single roof drain inlet that is installed rather than a dual roof drain and overflow roof drain that is required. These are all code violations.

Mr. Feathers reported that analysis of the civil drawings of the building showed no sizes of the piping and connection to the building piping, only notes stating to look at the plumbing drawings for this information. He stated there was a coordination issue between the civil and plumbing drawings.

Mr. Feathers also stated at the south portion of the building a 12 inch pipe was downsized to an 8 inch drain pipe, which causes a slow down to the water flow. During excavation of the pipe, there was a hole found in the top of the pipe. When water was backing up in the pipe, water came out of the hole in the pipe, which allowed water into the administration spaces of the building. This particular piping was not shown on the civil drawings.

When asked the question if he was able to reach out to other parties involved with the contract, Mr. Feathers stated he did not. Mr. Feathers also stated if he had documents that outlines or provides missing information he would need to re-look at his report and what the conclusions are but that he believed that he was reviewing the most recent revisions of documents. The documents were provided to Mr. Feathers by the school district.

Mr. Shaffer reported to the board the current projects in design at Peak include the under slab drainage where the east building and west building meet, incorporate corrugated pipe in front of the building, and drainage of the east parking lot.

Mr. Person expressed an interest in exploring firms that specialize in recovery. Mr. Ney recommended a letter be sent to each of the professionals involved and invite them to provide any documentation that would contradict any findings that were made in the Envista report; including a determination that no documents exist. Mr. Ney is familiar with a firm that seeks recovery for school districts in construction defects and will put them in contact with the District. The rest of the board had no disagreement to proceeding with issuing a letter to each of the firms.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Mr. Blaylock welcomed Ms. Lott to the board. He also requested an update on the Kimmons Middle School roof project at the next board meeting.

Mr. Chitwood welcomed Ms. Lott to the board.

Ms. Richardson thanked the administration for allowing the students to be out on Good Friday.

Ms. Lott thanked everyone for being so welcoming.

Mr. Person expressed his appreciation to the board for the conversation had on a complicated topic.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education