



Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, July 20, 2020, beginning at 5:45 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, per COVID19 CDC. The meeting start time was delayed due to technical issues.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, and Ms. Dee Blackwell. Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, 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. Marshall Ney, District Attorney, Friday, Eldredge and Clark, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence and pledge of allegiance followed.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for citizens' participation.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION RESOLUTION

Dr. Brubaker reported that as the 2020-2021 school year progresses, district needs related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19 Response Products (such as the district's anti-virus foggers) may change rapidly. The resolution presented to the Board, if adopted, would permit the procurement of these items on an as-needed emergency basis through June of 2021.

The administration recommended that the Board adopt the COVID19 emergency resolution. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to adopt the resolution as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CALENDAR UPDATE WITH ADJUSTED START DATE FOR 2020-2021

Dr. Brubaker reported that Fort Smith Public Schools was recently notified by the State that the 2020-2021 student school year cannot start earlier than August 24, 2020. He yielded to Dr. Morawski to review the calendar changes in detail. Dr. Morawski reported that the previously approved 2020-21 calendar included a student start date of August 13. This resulted in seven individual instructional days that needed to be added to the existing 2020-21 instructional calendar. Current guidance from the State has said the standard 178 days of

instruction will need to occur in the adjusted calendar. The FSPS Administration met with the Certified PPC Calendar Committee July 14 and July 17, 2020. The draft calendar represents these changes that will impact the days that many different classifications of employees will report to work. The calendar change will not impact the compensation or number of contract days currently in place for each employee classification, but will result in changes to many work schedules. These changes were shared with the classified committee as well.

The administration recommends the Board of Education approve the updated 2020-2021 calendar, as presented. After discussion, Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to approve the updated 2020-2021 calendar as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF MASK POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Dr. Brubaker reported that on July 16, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed Executive Order 20-43 directing the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to issue a face coverings directive. The ADH order was issued on July 18 and went into effect today.

Dr. Brubaker reported that changes have been made to the draft policy on face coverings discussed during the July 13 work session to align with Executive Order 20-43 and the ADH Directive. The amended policy recommendation is redlined to highlight those changes.

Dr. Brubaker recognized Ms. Featherston Marshall to report on the Ready for Learning Plan. Ms. Marshall reported that the committee met on July 10 and 17 to discuss the plan for onsite learning, virtual and blended and mask policy for students and staff. Dr. Brubaker reported on the COVID19 contact plan and point of contact person. Ms. Penix discussed the FMLA COVID19 leave plan. Mr. Mahan reported on Schoology and teaching online related to COVID19 absence. Mr. Hollenbeck reported on the disinfectant procedure in classrooms and buildings if there is a COVID19 case. Ms. Featherston Marshall shared the COVID tab that includes the Ready to Learning information that is available on the FSPS website. Ms. Hall reported that there were approximately 1,100 virtual students enrolled as of today.

Mr. Ney, FSPS counsel, reported that he had no concern with the District and Board passing the mask policy. Mr. Ney reported that other districts he represented are passing the same policy.

The administration recommended that the Board adopt the policy in order to promote compliance with Executive Order 20-43 and the ADH directive on face coverings. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to adopt the policy as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Person indicated that he has received requests from teachers about lowering the room temperatures with masks being worn by all. Dr. Morawski reported that steps are being taken to accommodate and make people comfortable. Humidifiers and calibrating thermostats will also help.

Ms. Richardson encouraged staff to get in touch with personnel if they are having issues.

Dr. Brubaker reported that Mr. Shaffer would communicate with staff by email again this year.

Mr. Hanesworth thanked all staff for their help in making graduation possible for the seniors.

Mr. Hanesworth asked for patience as school plans continue.

ADJOURN

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

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary