



Board of Education

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held April 22, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent's Star Awards

Jean Carlos, fifth grader at Sutton Elementary School, Olivia Boren, second grader at Carnall Elementary, Adrienne Castillo, third grader at Bonneville Elementary, Brianna Hicks is a sixth grader at Howard Elementary School, Mohammad Mahdi Al Huneiti, kindergartener at Cook Elementary, Santos Pacheco, sixth grader at Spradling Elementary School, Isley Spencer, kindergartener at Woods Elementary School, and Raequan Whitaker, fifth grader at Euper Lane Elementary School.

Student Recognitions

Jackson Minnick, Southside High School sophomore, was recognized for winning the Arkansas state oratorical contest in the American Legion competition. This win qualified him to compete nationally in Indianapolis.

Cesar Venegas was recognized for winning the gold medal in the Job Interview category at the SkillsUSA competition in Hot Springs. SkillsUSA is the competitive branch of the Career and Technology Education program. As a Gold Medalist, Cesar qualifies to compete in the national contest in Louisville, KY.

Patsy Graham, Madison Nixon, Layla Randels and Jaxon Waite of Barling Elementary were recognized for winning first place in the Junior Group Documentary Division in National History Day State Competition. This win qualified these students to compete at the national level in Washington, D.C. on June 8-13. Jennifer Shure and Theresa Johnson are the advisors for the group. Jennifer Shure was also named as the region's Novice Teacher of the Year.

Future Business Leaders

With 262 members, Southside Future Business Leaders of America continues as Arkansas' largest chapter and the tenth largest chapter in the nation. Southside received the Holly & Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit, the National Outstanding Chapter Award, the National Chapter Challenge Awards and the National Membership Achievement Award. Kelley Todd is the chapter's advisor.

The following students received first place in specific categories:

Matthew Alt, Hayden Blythe, and Josh Hannan, Banking & Financial Systems
Madison Settlege, Economics
Madelene Riché, Impromptu Speaking
Theavan Saitang, Introduction to Information Technology
Maren Cortez, Terik Excollen, and Kaitlyn Tran, Management Decision Making
Keaton Black and Evan Foley, Network Design
Brendan Lintz, Networking Concepts
Zach Bean, Organizational Leadership
Haleigh House, Alyssa Lovan, and Savannah Parker, Publication Design
Claire Bruce, Taylor Lasiter, and Grace Taylor, STEM: Green Building Initiative

Terry Uhm competed and won several scholarships including the Hettie Lou Martin State Adviser Scholarship Award, Mildred Brading Scholarship Award and the Heather Stocks Memorial Scholarship Award

Staff Recognitions

Dr. Tony Jones and Dr. Amy Manley were recognized for completing their doctorate in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech University.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for citizens' participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Mahan to present the professional staff recommendations.

Professional Staff Recommendations

Resignations

Certified

Moore, Sara

Classified

Wells, Randi

Sims, Joel

Jones, Kendra

St. Amant, Cordel

Brinlee, Catherine

Capron, Robert

Retirements

Certified

Walter, Peggy

Loyd, Laura

Cooper, Charles

Classified

Haaser, Theresa

Lusby, Denise

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to accept the recommendations for resignations and retirements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment

Certified

Brunk, Robert

Britt, Ashley

Dunn, Katie

Jeter, Karen

Classified

Triplett, Gerald

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Leaves of Absence

Certified

Russell, Michell

Faulkner, Britany

Geels, Veronica Luna

Classified

None

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the recommendations for leaves of absence as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the March 25 Regular School Board Meeting and April 8 Called Board Meeting, March Financial Report, March Student Services Report and to reaffirm approval of 2019-2020 Certified Salary Schedules.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 PROPOSED CLASSIFIED SALARY SCHEDULES

Mr. Warren reported that On April 8, 2019, the Board approved 2019-2020 budget parameters that included the District's desire to restructure some of the classified salary schedules to provide step increases for steps previously frozen in the respective schedules.

He reported that the updated classified salary schedules provide an average salary increase of 1,241.35 or 5.20% from 2018-2019. This restructure is intended to cover two years of increases and may not be changed again until 2021-2022.

Mr. Warren noted that Act 563 of the 2019 Arkansas Assembly allows bus drivers "designated by the superintendent as a full-time school bus driver" to be eligible for the District's health insurance program. Bus driver salary schedules have been adjusted to reflect this new benefit.

The Administration recommended that the Board approve the District's 2019-2020 classified salary schedules.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the Fort Smith Public Schools 2019-2020 salary schedules as attended.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2014

Mr. Warren reported that Mr. Kevin Faught, Senior VP with Stephens Inc., identified a refunding opportunity for Fort Smith Public Schools. Mr. Faught provided a letter that indicated the District could save an estimated \$738,263.39 in debt service costs over the lifetime of the bond. \$462,004.59 and \$225,618.76 of this savings would be recognized in FY2020 and FY2021.

Mr. Faught provided a preliminary schedule of events, the resolution, certification and agreements to be approved and signed by the Board to move forward on this bond refund.

The Administration recommended that the Board consider approval of the refinancing of the Series 2014 Bonds.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to authorize Stephens Inc. to refund the outstanding 2014 bonds in 2019, approving the resolution and required documentation as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

RECOMMENDATION OF 2019/2020 PERSONNEL CONTRACTS

Mr. Mahan presented the 2019/2020 Personnel Contracts. He noted that as reported at the April 8 Board Meeting, the District's practice has been to bring these contracts for board approval prior to the upcoming year. He added that since the certified contracts are approved monthly, the classified staff will also be presented monthly and current contracts will no longer be presented for the upcoming year. He reported that these recommendations exclude part-time personnel: bus drivers and bus aides, SPICE workers, Saturday School staff, homebound instructors, band adjuncts, substitute teachers, substitute aides, and substitute clerks.

The administration recommended that the board adopt the 2019-2020 contracts as presented.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to adopt the 2019-2020 personnel contracts as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER ADOPTING STUDENT RELATED POLICY CHANGES FOR FIRST READING - SECTION 4

Dr. Brubaker reported that Mr. Layes and Mr. Ney, the District's Attorney, have worked to revise current policies to the structure and language used in the model policies provided by Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). Mr. Layes reported that the new policies will have specific references to Arkansas statutes in the policies and can be quickly updated as statutes change.

Mr. Layes reported that the administration is currently working on procedures to support the new language in the revised policies to be placed in the student handbook. These policies are requested to be effective July 1, 2019.

Mr. Ney reviewed the proposed policy changes with board members. Mr. Magness and Ms. Richardson expressed concern to language in sections 4.19 and 4.24. After discussion and listening to concerns of some board members, Dr. Brubaker, Mr. Layes and Mr. Ney recommended that revisions be made and brought back for the board to review at the May 6 Work Session. Mr. Magness made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to adopt student related policy changes for first reading with modifications to Policy 4.19 which included the replacement of the first paragraph with a modified paragraph and a modification to the last

sentence in paragraph two of Policy 4.24 to be brought back to the board to review at the May 6 Work Session to be effective July 1, 2019. The vote passed 7/0.

AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF EDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR FSPS CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Dr. Brubaker reported that the Fort Smith Public Schools has been working with Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD) on an U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant funded under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. He reported that nineteen (19) government, business, and education leaders have submitted letters of support for this project. The District was recently advised that an EDA grant review meeting has been scheduled for early May and submission of the District's application in time for this review meeting may result in a more favorable outcome for the District.

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the superintendent to complete and sign all forms related to the EDA grant for the FSPS CTC.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to authorize the superintendent to complete and sign all forms related to an Economic Development Administration grant for the FSPS Career and Technology Center. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran thanked Ms. Cole for her weekly legislative updates that she sent to Ms. Brooks to share with other board members

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary