



## Board of Education

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### Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, May 19, 2025, beginning at 5:45 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order noting seven board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Lynnette Lott and Mr. Gregory Carthon. District administrators present included: Mr. Marty Mahan, Acting 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; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services; Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operations; Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Allan Marshall, Chief Communications & Engagement Officer; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance via Zoom.

#### **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Allan Marshall presented the following recognitions:

Several schools earned Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School Award. They were Ballman Elementary, Bonneville Elementary, Carnall Elementary, Cavanaugh Elementary, Cook Elementary, Euper Lane Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Howard Elementary, Morrison Elementary, Orr Elementary, Spradling Elementary, Sunnymede Elementary, Tilles Elementary, Woods Elementary, Darby Middle School, and Kimmons Middle School.

Outgoing board members Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, and Ms. Talicia Richardson were honored for their service to the district and its students.

#### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Mahan's Good Things Going on in the District included: Congratulations to the recent graduates of Northside High School and Southside High School; Cook Elementary School teacher, Ms. Carly Collyge, was named Fort Smith Public School's Teacher of the Year; Students accepted into the Health Sciences Academy at Darby Middle School participated in their White Coat Ceremony; Fort Smith Public Schools graduates participated in The Chamber of Commerce's Signing Day; a statue was unveiled at Southside High School in honor of Coach Aaron Kareus; teachers and staff across the District were celebrated during Teacher Appreciation week; the FSPS Foundation recently awarded \$80,000 in scholarships and grants to students, educators, and classrooms across the District; the Retirement and Retirees Picnic was held to celebrate staff who recently joined Fort Smith Public Schools or who are retiring this year.

The Arkansas School Board Association will be hosting a training conference in Hot Springs on June 17, 2025.

Dr. Tiffany Bone is named the new Deputy Superintendent effective July 1, 2025.

Mr. Mahan thanked the outgoing board members for their leadership and welcomed three new members to the board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the April Financial Report, March 31 and April 28 Minutes, May Professional Staff Recommendations, Student Services Report, Approval of the Arkansas Department of Education Federal Programs Statement of Assurances and GEPA Statement for Programs, Approval of the 2025-2026 Title I Part C Migrant Education Grant Assurances, the Authorization of the Sale and Disposal of Commodities, Designation of the Education Service Cooperative Representative, and Approval of the Superintendent's Replacement Contract.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carthon, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7-0.

### **PRESENTATION – DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATE**

Mr. Hudson Huff of Zonda Education presented an update to the district's demographics report. Mr. Huff provided information concerning current economic trends and development, population trends, and a housing market overview. Mr. Huff also provided a ten year forecast of Fort Smith Public Schools by grade and campus level.

This is a presentation item. No action is required.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Mahan presented the Board the regular meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, noting the meeting dates are taking into consideration any conflicts with holidays and does not include a meeting in June.

Mr. Blaylock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to approve the 2025-2026 Board of Education meeting schedule. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **PRESENTATION – LONG-TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Charles Warren presented to the Board updates from the Long Range Planning Committee. Mr. Warren stated the Committee's guiding principles to right-sizing elementary schools is having a minimum building capacity of 625 students, a target rate of 80% utilization, and the depreciated value of the school building.

The Committee recommends to begin studying the rezoning of students currently at Carnall Elementary and Spradling Elementary.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

#### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTATION – CMSI ARTIFACT ANALYSIS**

Dr. Tiffany Bone reported the comparisons of the initial collection and analysis of student artifacts in September 2024 to the analysis of student artifacts in April 2025. The student work samples are based on content, context, and cognitive demand.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

#### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTATION – CREATING CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTS TO THRIVE**

Ms. Caroline Neel and Ms. Domonique Alexander informed the Board of the plan for interventions to support students performing in the lowest 25% in English Language Arts and Math.

This is a presentation item only. No action is required.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PRE-LITIGATION AND SUPERINTENDENT GOALS**

At 7:07 PM the Board and Mr. Mahan went into executive session to discuss pre-litigation and superintendent goals.

Board members and Mr. Mahan returned to open session at 8:48 PM.

Mr. Carthon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft to approve the superintendent's performance goals for the 2025-2026 school year. The vote passed 7-0.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education