



## Board of Education

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Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, February 22, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind Road and virtually per CDC guidelines.

Mr. Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin and Ms. Dee Blackwell. Mr. Wade Gilkey was absent. Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent, 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, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present for Citizens Participation

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski reported that due to the winter storm from the previous week several District buildings had issues with frozen pipes, backflow preventers that failed, and water that got into classrooms and other areas at several schools. Dr. Morawski thanked the Facilities staff that worked tirelessly to get these buildings ready to continue with onsite learning.

Dr. Morawski reported that COVID 19 positive cases and quarantines have continued to decline and the District staff will continue to monitor.

Dr. Morawski reported that he had just received new guidelines indicating that District employees that are vaccinated do not have to quarantine for the three months following vaccination.

Dr. Morawski reported that two clinics and several pharmacies have provided vaccinations for District employees. The survey results indicate that approximately half of District staff are now vaccinated.

Dr. Morawski reported that Dr. Michael Farrell will present to the Board in a few weeks on Mental Health Awareness. May is Mental Health Awareness month.

Dr. Morawski commended students, parents and staff on the various challenges all have endured these past several months.

Ms. McFerran noted that the following week was Read Across American Week and asked if volunteers would be allowed to read to students. Dr. Morawski stated that he would look into how the District can begin to lift some restrictions and be creative with reading remotely.

Ms. Richardson asked if the approximate 50% vaccinated included the waitlisted employees. Ms. Richardson's concern was that not all people were following the rules and some educators were waiting while others that did not qualify had been getting vaccines. Dr. Morawski suggested that employees contact the Human Resource Office if they are unable to get a vaccine.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included January 25 Minutes and February 8 Minutes, January Financial Report, February Professional Staff Recommendations, and February Student Services Report. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2021 UNITED WAY - FSPS PARENTS AS TEACHERS CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Dr. Morawski reported that the Fort Smith Public Schools has maintained a partnership with United Way of Fort Smith for many years. As a recognized agency of United Way of Fort Smith, the FSPS Board of Education must review the agreement contract, approve and sign at a board meeting. Dr. Sarah Biggs was available for questions. Ms. McFerran asked Dr. Biggs how the school year has been with COVID 19 challenges. Dr. Biggs stated that all visits are virtual or teleconferences. She added that although it was more difficult, it was possible to connect with families and provide the developmentally appropriate activities.

The administration recommended that the board review and sign the United Way of Fort Smith contract agreement for the Parents as Teachers program.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the United Way-FSPS Parents as Teachers Contract Agreement. The vote passed 6/0.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 TO AND INCLUDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Dr. Morawski reported that this is an annual requirement as part of the upcoming school board election.

Mr. Warren reported that the District is required to publish this proposed budget of expenditures and the corresponding tax levy at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual school election that will be held in May 2021. This proposed budget is based upon projection of expenditures during the 2022-2023 fiscal year at the current millage rate.

The administration recommended the Board approve the 2022-2023 proposed budget.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the attached proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy for 2022-2023 to be published as required by law. The vote passed 6/0.

### **CONSIDER CALENDAR OPTIONS FOR 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023**

Dr. Morawski reported that Ms. Penix had presented the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 calendars at the February 8 meeting. The major changes reflected on this year's calendar options included a continuation of a two year calendar plan; a decrease in teacher contract days from 193 to 190 with no reduction in pay; and a decrease for on-contract professional development from 54 hours to 48 hours.

The administration recommended the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 (amended) and 2022-2023 calendars, as presented.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the 2021-2022 (amended) and 2022-2023 calendars as presented. The vote passed 6/0.

### **PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Morawski recognized Mr. George Watts of HPM to provide an update on the progress of the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement facility and security upgrades. Mr. Watts reviewed some of the recent weather impacts from the past two weeks. These included road conditions and utility outages. Contractors and District staff worked diligently to keep materials protected and pipes from freezing. Mr. Watts stated that contractors are working to quantify specific schedule slippage.

Mr. Watts reviewed the master program schedule and progress for Southside High School, Northside High School, Ramsey Middle School, Darby Middle School, Peak Innovation Center and the security walls at elementary schools.

Ms. Richardson asked if recent weather would affect delivery of materials to the campuses. Mr. Watts stated that many of the campuses had space to store materials so it should be minimal.

This was an information item and no action was necessary.

### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Keaton-Martin wished Ms. Richardson a happy birthday.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Bill Hanesworth, President

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Dee Blackwell, Secretary