



Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, December 15, 2025, beginning at 5:30 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, Ms. Susan Krafft, Ms. Brittney Hall, Mr. Brad Harding, Ms. Lynnett Lott, and Ms. Maria Martinez. District administrators present included: Mr. Marty Mahan, Superintendent; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Kellie Cohen Minton, 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; Ms. Kimberly Mundell, Executive Director of Communications and Engagement; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Coque Benton received Level 1 Course 1 High Reliability Teacher Certification.

Ms. Holly Pixley, Ms. Annalee York, and Ms. Katie Rauch received Level 1 Course 2 High Reliability Teacher Certification.

Ms. Kim Gillman received Level 3 High Reliability Teacher Certification.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mr. Sean Carrier, Mr. Wayne Haver, and Ms. Jeannie Cole spoke regarding naming the Fort Smith Public Schools Administration Building after former Superintendent Dr. Benny L Gooden.

Ms. Arilene Betancourt spoke on attendance zone recommendations for Carnall.

Ms. Jo Elsken spoke on the practice of right sizing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Mahan informed the board of several key events: a board work session is scheduled for January 12, 2026 to review the Darby Health Science Academy and the School Based Health Center; April 7, 2026 a board work session will be held to review the Transportation and Child Nutrition Department; and board training will be held in February at the Marshals Museum.

Mr. Mahan reported that 363 current employees have signed up for the Aurora identity theft protection.

Mr. Mahan provided an update on the ongoing Listening Tours conducted by administrators, reporting there have been eleven campus visits. He also shared key data trends identified during these visits.

Mr. Mahan's Good Things Going on in the District include: administration from the Service Center served Thanksgiving lunches to elementary schools; Southside High School's Varsity Quiz Bowl won the Friends of Quiz Bowl Tournament; Peak Innovation Center hosted the Lego League State Qualifying Tournament. Winners included Woods Site Seekers: Champions Award and Robot Performance, Ballman Bashing Bots: Robot Design Award, Chaffin Cougar Coders: Engineering Excellence Award, Beard Technicians: Breakthrough Award, Fairview Falcons: Rising All-Star Award, and Ramsey Rams: Motivate Award; a playground groundbreaking was held at Barling Elementary; and Fort Smith Public Schools administration and students participated in the Christmas Honors.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the November Financial Report, November 17 Minutes, December Professional Staff Recommendations, Consider Approving the School Choice Staffing Capacity Resolution, Consider Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Commodities, and the United Way – FSPS Parents as Teachers Contract Agreement.

Mr. Harding requested that item number 8.6, United Way - FSPS Parents as Teacher Contract Agreement, be removed for individual consideration.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item number 8.6. The vote passed 7-0.

Mr. Harding requested clarification on the specifics of the United Way Teacher Contract Agreement.

After discussion, Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve consent agenda item 8.6. The vote passed 7-0.

CONSIDER ADOPTING THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Dr. Davis presented the proposed 2026-2027 school year calendar to the Board. The proposed calendar, developed with the help of the Certified and Classified Personnel Policy Committees,

is a minutes-based model and includes the removal of two flex days for teachers. Removing the flex days allowed for two additional snow days built in.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harding, to adopt the 2026-2027 school year calendar as presented. The vote passed 7-0.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATION – SNAPSHOT REVIEW, SEAL OF BI-LITERACY, COMPUTER SCIENCE ACADEMY AND ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

Dr. Kimberly Starr, Director of Elementary Education, and Dr. Tony Jones, Director of Secondary Education, presented data gathered through observing classroom instruction. The data was collected with the use of a digital Snapshot Tool. This data helps identify areas for further support.

Dr. Tony Jones provided an overview of the number of high school students that received the Seal of Bi-Literacy, a distinction awarded by the Arkansas State Board of Education. The recognition is for students proficient in English and one or more additional languages.

Dr. Gary Udouj, Director of Career Education and District Innovation, presented an update on the progress of the Chaffin Computer Science Academy, which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2026.

Mr. Matthew Hominick, Director of Adult Education, presented the annual report to the board regarding the programs offered at the Adult Education Center. Mr. Hominick also presented the enrollment trends and performance outcomes of the Center.

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

PRESENTATION – ATTENDANCE ZONE RECOMMENDATIONS CARNALL AND SPRADLING ELEMENTARY

Dr. Tiffany Bone presented information regarding proposed attendance zone adjustments for Beard, Cavanaugh, Sutton, Morrison, and Sunnymede Elementary Schools. These adjustments are part of the recommendation of the Long-Range Planning Committee to consider right-sizing Carnall and Spradling Elementary Schools.

This agenda item will be brought back to the Board for a vote at the regular January 2026 board meeting.

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

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

A January board work session will be conducted on January 12, 2026 at Darby Middle School.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2026.

The board requested placing the proposed naming of the Fort Smith Public Schools Administration Building after Dr. Benny L Gooden on the February or March agenda for further discussion.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Dalton Person, President

Susan Krafft, Secretary