

Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, April 26, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

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, Ms. Dee Blackwell and Mr. Wade Gilkey. 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

RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Featherston Marshall presented the following April Recognitions

April Superintendent Stars

Ayden Amaya, Sunnymede Elementary
Finley Ballin, Cavanaugh Elementary School
Kiya Bogdon, Spradling Elementary School
Karla Castro Zamorano, Morrison Elementary School
Elle Caesar, Trusty Elementary School
Xavier Coby Ballman Elementary School
Clayton Loggains, Euper Lane Elementary School
Elian Luna, Pike Elementary School
Damian Olivas Castorena, Sutton Elementary School
Brody Pate, Bonneville Elementary School
Kaegen Seaton, Cook Elementary School

Essay Contest Winners

A program of the Elks' Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, the Americanism Essay Contest, is geared towards students in 5th through 8th grades to promote patriotism among young people. This year's topic was "How Can Patriotism Be Displayed?" Chaffin Junior High School's

Abigail Fischer and **Maggie Jacimore** earned the first and second places in Arkansas with their essays. Abigail's essay qualified to compete in the national essay contest.

Southside Fbla State Champions

With 106 members, Southside Future Business Leaders of America continued as Arkansas' largest chapter. On March 30, 2021, Southside FBLA members earned recognition at the 2021 Virtual State FBLA Leadership Conference. Each of the following winners will advance to the FBLA Nationals this summer.

- Trista Truong, Boushra Raache, Bianca Perela: First Place, Publication Design
- Tu Nguyen: First Place, Securities and Investments
- Jacob Weaver: First Place, Website Design

Pta Reflections Winners

This year the 2020-2021 Arkansas as well as the National PTA Reflections theme was "I Matter Because...". Fort Smith Public Schools were well represented with dozens of entries and 15 winners. Five of these winners earned first place recognition.

- Emery Liggett, Chaffin Junior High,
Dance Choreography Category, Middle School Division
- Serina Huang, Chaffin Junior High,
Music Competition Category, High School Division

VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY

- Jostin Flores, Sutton Elementary, Special Arts Division
- Antonella Alvarez: Sunnymede Elementary, Primary Division
- Bella Thornburg, Cavanaugh Elementary, Middle School Division

Marissa Goodwin

The Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists was organized in 1926 to encourage and recognize individual achievement in journalism and scholastic publication. Southside High School sophomore Marissa Goodwin earned a National Gold Key from the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for her sports action photography.

High Reliability Cohort 2

Ballman's Ruby Dean, Bonneville's Lana McLaughlin, and Spradling's Merary Ramirez, were selected to attend the High Reliability Teacher program which encourages and celebrates teacher effectiveness. Sponsored by the Arkansas Education Renewal Zone (ERZ), participants receive intensive support as they implement and deepen their understanding of instructional strategies and student learning. Level 1 and Level 2 High Reliability Teacher certification qualifies an educator to earn the Master Teacher Professional designation.

GREAT NEWS For HSA@Darby!

The first time sixth graders had the opportunity to participate in a health care careers focused academy was at Darby Middle School. Three charter members who competed in the Arkansas Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Medical Terminology Competition had scores that allows them to advance to the National HOSA Medical Terminology Competition in June. Congratulations to Ethan Newton, Lyric Flemons, and Isabella Watkins. These sixth graders took a very difficult written test of 121 multiple choice questions covering medical terminology such as prefixes, suffixes and root words as well as anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and occupations related to the health field.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Ms. Lacy McCain spoke in regards to removing the face mask policy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported that ID badge reels would be distributed to staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Each board member received one as well,

Dr. Morawski reported that 1,100 Hot Spots that were recalled have been deactivated and would be replaced. Hot Spots were available for students.

Dr. Morawski thanked board members and staff that handed senior signs out at both high schools.

Dr. Morawski reported that 60 sophomore students attended the Superintendent's Scholars Reception on April 22. These students will attend a PSAT Academy this summer and fall.

Dr. Morawski reported that the administration has been reviewing the Ready to Learn Plan, noting that the Ready to Learn Committee is supportive of keeping it in place through this school year. Discussions with community members indicate there is no unified message. He added that the hope is to have more school events open in the next few weeks.

Dr. Morawski reported that the Governor is expected to sign a bill that will end the mask mandate in the near future. He noted that the board will be need to vote to remove the mask mandate policy that was put in place last July. The administration plans to bring this to the board at the May meeting.

Mr. Gilkey made a motion to remove the mask effective immediately. The motion did not receive a second. Board members discussed in detail but made no decision at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included April 12 Minutes and March 29 Minutes, March Financial Report, April Professional Staff Recommendations, April Student Services Report, Special Education 2021-2022 Tuition Agreement with Residential Facilities within District, Special Education Statements of Intent for 2021-2022, approval of Personnel Recommendations 2021-2022, And Current Proposals, Bids and Renewals,

Mr. Person asked to remove items 7 and 8 from the Consent Agenda vote for further discussion.

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

Dr. Morawski stated that the District's practice has been to have Item 7 Personnel Contracts for 2021-2022 brought to the board for approval each year. The numbers represent how many employees are returning or hired for the next fiscal year. Ms. Penix stated that Mr. Ney has confirmed that the State does not require that this item be approved by the Board of Education each year. The item was left on the agenda for consideration since it had been reviewed by board members and would allow the administration to explain the reason it will no longer be on the agenda. Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the 2021-2022 Personnel Recommendations as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Dr. Morawski stated that Item 8 Current Proposals, Bids and Renewals is an information item and does not require board approval. He plans to have it on the Superintendent's Report for future meetings so that it is available if a board member wishes to discuss this item. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the item. The vote passed 6/1 with Mr. Person opposing voting on an item that is for information only.

CONSIDER ADOPTING UPDATES FOR STUDENT RELATED POLICY CHANGES FOR FIRST READING

Mr. Layes presented Student Policies 4.7 and 4.11 that were reviewed at the May 10 Work Session. Mr. Layes reported that the grammatical edit that Mr. Dalton requested was made to the policy. Mr. Layes was available for further questions. There were no further questions. Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to approve the first reading of the Board Policies, Section 4 – Students, as presented to be effective on final board approval. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER ADOPTING UPDATES FOR LICENSED AND CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL POLICIES FOR FIRST READING

Ms. Penix presented policies for licensed and classified personnel updated to reflect modifications of the Model Policies by Arkansas School Boards Association. These policies were reviewed at the May 20 Work Session. These changes have been reviewed and approved by the District's Certified and Classified PPCs. Clean and redlined versions were provided to enable the Board to see the specific changes that are being proposed. By law, revisions to Certified Policy Nos. 3.1, 3.44, 3.46, 3.6 and Classified Policy Nos. 8.1, 8.36 and 8.38 will not become effective until July 1, 2021. All changes to the personnel policies will become effective upon the second reading. The administration's recommendation was that the Board approve the first reading of the revisions to Board Policies. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to approve the first reading of the revisions to the Certified Board Policies 3.1, 3.44, 3.46, 3.6 and

Classified Board Policies 8.1, 8.36 and 8.38 to be effective upon the dates stated by the administration. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2021-22 ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION (AMI)

Mr. Mahan stated that a district may apply for up to 10 days of AMI for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including [remote] learning, on days when the district is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as: contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, other acts of God, utility outage. The administration recommended the board approve the 2021-2022 Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) plan. Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) for the 2021-2022 school year. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Blackwell enjoyed attending Cook Elementary's Preschool Art Program.

Mr. Hanesworth stated that he enjoyed presenting Senior Signs and learning about the senior students plans after graduation.

ADJOURN

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

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary