



Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, July 13, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, per COVID19 CDC guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, and Ms. Dee Blackwell. Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, 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 followed.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Layes reported that earlier this spring, the Board approved on second reading new student policies based on the Arkansas School Board Association model policies. The District Handbook Committee then met on June 4 and developed thirteen recommendations for handbook changes to ensure that the 2020-2021 handbook aligns with the new student policies. Mr. Layes presented the changes recommended by the handbook committee in redlined documents showing edits and changes from the previous year's handbook.

The administration recommended the handbook changes be approved for inclusion in the 2020-21 District Handbook at the July 27 board meeting.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF MASK POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Dr. Brubaker presented The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has guidance related to face coverings:

CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That's why it's important for everyone to wear cloth face coverings in public settings and practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people).

While cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged to reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a cloth face covering may not be feasible. In these instances, adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible . . .

Dr. Brubaker reported that currently there is no requirement for students and staff to wear cloth facing coverings. The Board has the option to adopt the attached policy to make this a requirement for both students and staff. Dr. Brubaker reported that the City of Fort Smith may adopt an ordinance related to masks; this policy would apply to all schools within district boundaries. Cloth masks have been ordered for all students. Clarity on this point will help parents and staff prepare for the coming school year.

The administration recommended that the Board adopt the attached policy at an upcoming meeting. Board members discussed this item in detail.

PRESENTATION - STUDENT SUPPORT-SUICIDE PREVENTION - HATCHING RESULTS-DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING PROGRAM IN THE FORT SMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS-YEAR 1 RECAP

Dr. Farrell and FSPS counselors Cherri Byford, Darby Junior High, Karen Williamson, Ballman Elementary, Sherry Logsdon, FSPS School-based Mental Therapist, and Sarah Gibbons, Western Arkansas Guidance Center therapist shared the progress and future expectations being made in developing a comprehensive counseling program for the Fort Smith Public Schools. The program being utilized for this development is known as "Hatching Results".

Board members took a 5 minute break between presentations.

PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dr. Morawski and Mr. George Watts, HPM, CCM, LEED AP, BD+C presented a master schedule overview on construction and pre-construction timeline for Northside High School, Southside High School, Ramsey Junior High School, Darby Junior High School, PEAK Innovation Center, Security Walls, and Security Vestibules. Mr. Watts discussed procurement as well.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary