



## 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, December 13, 2021, 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**

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Matt Blaylock and Mr. Troy Eckelhoff. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; 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, Office Manager to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney, of Friday, Eldridge and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance.

A moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance and mission statement.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

Ms. Marshall presented the following recognitions.

#### December Superintendent Star Students

Odell Douglas Cavanaugh Elementary School  
Brayden Harvey, Barling Elementary School  
Noah King, Beard Elementary School  
Jayveon Knauls, Trusty Elementary School  
Jaylan Lester, Orr Elementary School  
Emmi Minnick, Cook Elementary School  
Braylon Portillo, Euper Lane Elementary  
Owen Prater, Woods Elementary School  
KhyaBella Sims, Carnall Elementary School  
Hazel Whitfield, Bonneville Elementary School

#### Other Recognitions

Principal Laura Gladden and the team of Educators at Ballman Elementary School were recognized for earning the Highly Effective Schools Accreditation from Solution Tree. This accreditation is a significant achievement that reflects Ballman's commitment to reaching and maintaining the highest levels of educational quality.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and High Reliability Schools are two of the primary focus areas. Work toward PLCs supports high level collaboration among education teams. Work toward High Reliability Schools Framework is the process that drives our education teams toward a recognized standard for high achievement. Together when implemented with fidelity, results reflect high expectations for each child in every school in the district. Congratulations to Ballman for their leadership and their example as a Highly Effective School.

Cavanaugh, Cook, Euper Lane, and Woods Elementary Schools, along with Chaffin Middle School were recognized for being named 'Reward Schools' by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Arkansas School Recognition Program provides financial awards to public schools that achieve high student performance and public schools that achieve high student academic growth. With the recognition as a reward school, these schools will receive a combined total of \$240,050.00.

Cavanaugh Elementary has earned a spot in the Top 6%-10% Student Performance Recognition Program and will receive \$16,050. Cavanaugh will receive an additional \$32,100 for their position among the Top 5% in Academic Growth. Their total is \$48,150.

Cook Elementary will receive \$24,650 for Top 6%-10% Performance and an additional \$49,300 for Top 5% Growth, totaling \$73,950.

Euper Lane Elementary will receive \$21,550 for Top 6%-10% Performance.

Woods Elementary will receive \$53,500 for Top 5% Performance.

Chaffin Middle School will receive \$42,900 for Top 6%-10% Performance.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Trish Vraz spoke regarding traffic issues when parents are dropping and picking up at Northside High School.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski reported that he enjoyed visiting Howard Elementary for the gingerbread house event.

Dr. Morawski thanked Dr. Bone for overseeing the Secret Santa project for 80+ Fort Smith Public School students.

Dr. Morawski reported that he had presented at the Chamber event for visiting Fighter Jet families that will be moving into the area.

Dr. Morawski reported that because of ongoing delays with brackets for completing the seats at Northside, the Coca Cola Classic scheduled for Dec. 28 – 30 would be held at Southside.

Dr. Morawski reminded board members of the January 10 Work Session and the January 24 Regular Board meeting.

Dr. Morawski wished board members a restful holiday.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the November Financial Statement, November 15 Minutes, December Professional Staff Recommendations, and December Student Service Report.

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

### **CONSIDER ADOPTING BOARD RELATED POLICY CHANGES FOR FIRST READING**

Dr. Morawski reported that a board policy committee met October 27 and November 2 with administration and the district's legal counsel to discuss updates to current board policies to reflect the most recent recommendations provided by the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). He noted that the new policies would have specific references to Arkansas statutes in the policies and could be updated as statutes change. Board members reviewed the policies.

The board policy committee and the administration recommended that the board approve for first reading changes to Board Policies: Section 1 – Board Governance and Operations, Section 2 – Administration and Section 6 – Home and Community Relations as presented.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve for first reading the Board Policies: Section 1 – Board Governance and Operations, Section 2 – Administration and Section 6 – Home and Community Relations as presented to be effective upon board approval. The vote passed 7/0.

### **CONSIDER ADOPTING SECTION 7 POLICY RELATED TO THERAPY ANIMALS FOR FIRST READING**

Mr. Layes and Dr. Farrell presented Section 7 Policy 7.19.1 involving therapy animals at school. This policy is included in the most recent recommendation provided by Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). This new policy will have specific references to Arkansas statutes in the policy and could be updated as statutes change. Mr. Ney has reviewed, vetted and approved this policy.

The administration recommended that the board approve on first reading this change to Board Policies, Section 7 – Business and Financial Management, as presented to be effective upon final board approval.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eckelhoff, to approve on first reading the Board Policies, Policy 7.19.1, Section 7 – Business and Financial Management, as presented to be effective on final board approval. The vote passed 7/0.

**INFORMATION - BOARD POLICY NAMING DISTRICT FACILITIES & MASCOT**

Dr. Morawski reported as mentioned the board policy committee met and drafted a policy for the board to review, edit, and offer feedback. Discussion included whether to consider naming buildings after individuals.

Dr. Morawski suggested that the board could bring this item back to the January work session or reconvene the committee. Dr. Morawski stated that there is some interest in naming of buildings

Mr. Person stated that this is an important policy and he would like to consider some edits to it by reducing the policy constraints considerably. He stated that he was in favor of a more flexible policy with fewer constraints. He was not opposed to naming buildings after individuals.

Ms. Richardson stated that she would like input from other board members. She stated that she would be cautious of naming a building after individual based on whether that person would be someone reputable 20, 50 or 70 years later. She stated that she would err on the side of caution with naming buildings after individuals.

Dr. Morawski stated that this policy could be brought back for discussion in January. He added that there are guidelines that would involve a process and a committee to study carefully before any recommendations would come to the board for approval.

Mr. Person stated that he was favorable to reconvene the committee if others could.

Ms. McFerran thanked the committee for their work and stated that she is glad that the community will be involved in this process.

This is an information item. No action was required at this time.

**PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Dr. Ginni McDonald provided an overview and update of the Vision 2023 Strategic Plan. Dr. McDonald reviewed the timeline dating back to August, 2017 when the Strategic Planning Team convened to create a vision/mission statement and identified seven strategies. An informal meeting was held in September, 2017 and action teams were created from the attending participants. Each Action Team had leaders who held team meetings to identify steps to be taken to meet the result statements. The Board approved Vision 2023 in December 2017. The Strategic Planning Team reviewed progress toward the established strategies. Members included the original Strategic Planning team. An update was presented at the December 2018 board meeting.

In September and October, of 2021, the seven Action Teams convened to review actions steps and progress. The teams then determined a status for each action step.

In November, 2021, the Strategic Planning Team reviewed the work and recommendations of the Action Teams. The Strategic Planning team reviewed action steps and result statements. Each result statement was determined to be complete or ongoing.

Dr. McDonald reviewed highlights of progress and ongoing work with the seven strategies, Career Planning, Equity, Instruction, Learning Environment, Staffing, Technology, and Wellness.

Ms. McFerran thanked Dr. McDonald for her presentation. Ms. McFerran stated that this was a presentation and no action was required.

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

Mr. Shawn Shaffer provided construction updates on the following projects.

Trusty Elementary – Mr. Shaffer reported that Access and Security Phase Pkg C is complete. He reported that the front door will not ship until February, temporary door in place.

Northside High School – Mr. Shaffer reported that the scoreboard was functional and pedestal complete. One of the seat backs shipment has made it through customs. The second shipment has not. The seat backs will be put together and delivered to Northside once they arrive through customs. The plan is to have these installed by mid-January. Regular games can be played now at Northside but not state tournaments. Mr. Shaffer stated that December 31 is 100 days past completion date.

Ms. Richardson asked if the community could be provided with an update as to when the arena can be complete.

Mr. Mahan stated that the coaches' preference was to wait to host tournaments when the arena was complete.

Mr. Blaylock stated that although it was beyond the control of the district, it was disappointing.

Peak Project – Mr. Shaffer reported that there is still a lot of work to complete the Peak Project. He added that there was a meeting scheduled on Thursday, December 16, to see if Peak is still on track.

Ms. McFerran stated that this was a presentation and no action was required.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Mr. Blaylock asked for a traffic study for issues at Northside High School and other campuses. He stated that the District needed to be good neighbors to businesses.

Mr. Blaylock congratulated the Adult Education graduates.

Mr. Person reported that he has received calls from parents about the number of kids crossing

Rogers Avenue to Northside. He asked if communication could be sent to parents asking them to not drop kids off to cross Rogers Avenue.

Dr. Morawski stated that the District is looking into adult cross guards to be at schools.

Ms. Richardson suggested that administrators meet with City Engineer Stan Snodgrass, and that SROs and cross guards be used to promote safety.

Ms. Blackwell suggested an examination of each campus and stated that she was anxious to hear back.

Ms. McFerran asked if Mr. Hollenbeck could report back in January.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Dee Blackwell, Secretary