

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fort Smith Public Schools

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, June 26, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Susan McFerran, Mr. Bill Hanesworth and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin and Mr. Wade Gilkey were absent. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Director of Communication and Community Partnerships and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the Invocation.

Dr. Mehl requested that the agenda item "Sanitation Bids" be moved to follow Citizen's Participation to allow Mr. Joey McCutchen, counsel for Altes Sanitation, to speak on behalf of his client. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to move the agenda item as requested. The vote passed 5/0.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the May 22 Regular School Board Meeting and the June 1 Called Board Meeting, the May Financial Report, and the June Student Services Report. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 5/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Professional Staff Recommendations

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Mahan to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignations

Asbill, Theresa
Strahan, Cody
Massengale, Rick.
Jimenez, Jazmin
Pippenger, Jennifer
Sharp, Leslie
Taylor-Castagno, Cristie
Sangster, Tamara

Board of Education Minutes

June 26, 2017

Page 2

Beam, Kristen
Moose, Carla
Spears, Deborah
Milton, Lauren
Calvillo, Kristin.
Forsgren, Gala
Stevens, Julius
Reynolds, Caroline
Heppel, Vickie
Swink, Amber
Rincon, Heather

Retirements

O'Daniel, Betty Kaye
Barham, Bonnie
Daniel, Barbara
Frederick, Kyra
Mayo, Elizabeth
Allen, Cindy
Mayo, Johnny

Mr. Bill Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Talicia Richardson, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote passed 5/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Smith, Kaitlyn
Walden, Amy
Horton, Angela
Elmore, Reagan
Mackey, Charles
Perry, Andria
Matlock, Tammy
Dove, Kaci
Kern, Kelsey.
Morawski, Terrance
Baldwin, Ashley
Spencer, Caitlyn
Pearson, Rebecca
McLaughlin, Lana
Westfall, Joseph
Lovvorn, William
Newman, Regina
Shepherd, Brittney
Welborn, Monica

Childress, Dawn
Schneider, James
Posey, Krystal
Shelly, Sheila
Jones, Marisa
Benge, Leslie
Dockery, Nancy
Thompson, Meagan
Ford, Heather
McKissic, Darrin
Palmer, James.
Holliman, Randy
Moore, Audra
Gramlich, Tammy
Williams, Rashunda
Blanton, Justin
Scruggs, Clare
Bingham, Rebecca

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote passed 5/0.

Introduction of New Administrators

Dr. Brubaker introduced Mr. Martin Mahan in his new position as Director of Human Resources, Dr. Ginni McDonald as Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Keri Rathbun as principal of Northside High School, Ms. Leigh Christian as Supervisor of Child Nutrition, and Ms. Dawn Childress as assistant principal at Woods and Barling Elementary Schools.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

Committee Minutes

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to approve the June 12 committee minutes. The vote passed 5/0.

Special Education 2017-18 Tuition Agreement

Mr. Hanesworth presented the 2017-2018 Tuition Agreements for Pre K and K-12 for Board approval. He reported that these must be submitted on an annual basis to verify that the district agrees to provide related services to students identified as needing speech, occupational, and/or physical therapy in accordance with federal and state guidelines. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to authorize the tuition agreements for submission to the Arkansas Department of Education. The motion passed 5/0.

Proposed Budget of Expenditures With Tax Levy

Mr. Hanesworth presented the Proposed Budget for Expenditures & Tax Levy for 2018-2019. He reported that the proposed budget is based upon a projection of expenditures for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at the current 36.5 millage rate which is unchanged. Mr. Hanesworth listed the proposed \$149 million budget in the following categories:

Salary Fund Expenditures	\$ 65,833,614
Instructional Expense	\$ 27,114,550
Maintenance & Operation Expense	\$ 15,917,039
Dedicated Maintenance and Operation Expenditures	\$ - 0 -
Pupil Transportation Expense	\$ 3,944,757
Other Operating Expense	\$ 27,047,331
Non-Bonded Debt Payment	\$ - 0 -
Bonded Debt Payment	\$ 6,114,316
Building Fund Expense	\$ 3,132,553

Ms. Richardson and Dr. Mehl noted that if the current tax levy of 36.5 mills on the ballot is defeated, the rate will revert to the previous tax rate which is the current 36.5 millage rate. Ms. Cole added that this rate has been at this same rate since 1987. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to approve the Proposed Budget of Expenditures and Tax Levy for 2018-2019 to be published as required by law. The vote passed 5/0.

Legal Services

Mr. Hanesworth reported that the district sought qualifications from legal firms through a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. He reported that the purpose was to seek qualified law firms that are available to represent Fort Smith Public Schools on an as-needed basis. Areas of practice sought included, but were not limited to, school board policy and procedures, FOIA, personnel matters, labor laws and termination hearings, student discipline and expulsion hearings, workers' compensation issues, litigation actions, and/or challenges to Board actions. The superintendent recommended five firms that an evaluation team determined met the criteria through this process. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate acceptable terms of representation with each of the Qualified Firms and to engage any of the Qualified Firms on an as-needed basis. The vote passed 5/0.

Milk and Bread Bids

Mr. Hanesworth reported that bids were received on May 30 for milk and bread. He reported that Hiland Dairy was on the only bidder for milk and is the current supplier. He reported that

three bids were received for bread. Harris Bakery had the lowest bid and is the current supplier. The Child Nutrition staff recommended awarding the contracts to the current suppliers. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to award the 2017-2018 milk contract to Hiland Dairy and the 2017-2018 bread contract to Harris Bakery. The vote passed 5/0.

Insurance Renewals/Contracts

Mr. Hanesworth reported that District personnel have completed the process of reviewing insurance coverage renewable by July 1. The following recommended policies and premiums for 2017-2018 fiscal year are presented as follows:

Policy	Provider	2016-17	Difference	2017-2018
Property	ASBA	\$ 603,483.00	(\$ 1,055.02)	\$ 602,427.98
Vehicle	ASBA	79,771.01	1,954.99	81,726.00
Mobile Equipment	ASBA	2,650.00	50.00	2,700.00
Professional Liability	ASBA	28,094.00	0.00	28,094.00
Total		\$ 713,998.01	\$ 949.97	\$ 714,947.98

Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to approve the insurance policies and premiums as listed above for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The vote passed 5/0.

Ethics Disclosures

Ms. McFerran reported a potential conflict of interest involving employee, Elias Galvan who owns Red Carpet Photobooths, as outlined in A.C.A. §6-24-101 et seq. and the ADE regulations pursuant to this law. The resolution to be approved allows the District to transact business with Red Carpet Photobooths when the company is competitively priced for providing photo booth services for the District. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to waive the formal reading of the resolution. Ms. McFerran made a committee recommendation to approve the resolution. The vote passed 5/0.

Election Resolution

Dr. Brubaker presented the school board election resolution for adoption to provide official notice of the annual school board election and list of polling places scheduled for September 19, 2017 as required by law. Ms. Jeannie Cole made a motion seconded by Ms. Susan McFerran, to waive the formal reading of the resolution. The vote passed 5/0. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion that the Board adopt this resolution and notice of school election to authorize publication of the notice as required by law. The vote passed 5/0.

Website Upgrade

Mr. Hanesworth reported that through dialogue, the district has identified a need to improve communication with stakeholders through the use of an updated and enhanced district website. He reported the following costs listed on the proposal: \$42,324 are for the renewal of

ParentLink, the parent notification system that the district already uses. The District will incur one-time costs of \$21,750 in the 2017-18 school year to upgrade its website. These one-time costs will be paid using the proceeds of the upcoming bond refunding project. In addition to one-time expenses, the District's Year 1 subscription charge for School Wires will be \$32,081, which will decrease to \$17,676 per year for the remainder of the five-year agreement. Dr. Brubaker added that enhancements are also needed to the website because it is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The administration's recommendation is that Blackboard, Inc. represents the best option for the District's website redesign and maintenance. Mr. Hanesworth made a committee motion to approve the contract between Blackboard, Inc. and the Fort Smith Public School for the use of its products, School Wires and ParentLink. The vote passed 5/0.

Personnel Policy 2nd Reading

Dr. Brubaker reported that policy GCL Professional Development was being presented for second reading since all policy changes require two readings and affirmative votes before they are considered official. He added that personnel policy changes become effective on the July 1st following adoption. Dr. Brubaker reported that this policy revision reduced the number of required professional development hours by one day or six hours. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to waive the formal reading of the policy. The vote passed 5/0. Ms. McFerran made a committee motion to approve Policy GCL - Professional Development for its second reading. The vote passed 5/0.

PUBLIC/STUDENT AFFAIRS

Board to Board Transfer Request - Channer

Dr. Brubaker introduced a board to board transfer request from Jon and Michelle Channer to release their children to the Greenwood School District. The Channers missed the May 1 School Choice deadline. The Channers addressed the Board stating their reasons. Dr. Brubaker reported that the administration's opinion is if the Board chooses to honor the Channers' request, it will establish a precedent for releasing students after the School Choice deadline, and there will be no incentive for any family to follow state law and apply by May 1. This will create unnecessary confusion and uncertainty regarding annual enrollment and cause the Board to consider multiple cases of individual requests, thereby diverting Board members' time and attention from broader matters. After discussion, Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to deny this request for a transfer out of the Fort Smith School District. The vote passed 5/0.

Board to Board Transfer Request - Tampus

Dr. Brubaker introduced a board to board transfer request from Ms. Marie Tampus for her daughter. Dr. Brubaker reported that Ms. Tampus is seeking a transfer from the Van Buren School District to the Fort Smith School District after missing the May 1 School Choice deadline. Dr. Brubaker stated that this case is different from those considered by the board

previously. In this case the resident district has approved the transfer from Van Buren to Fort Smith Public Schools. The administration's opinion is that very few school boards are going to grant requests for students to leave their districts for all the prior reasons cited earlier. The administration's recommendation is because of the Van Buren School Board release, the District should accept her for enrollment as a high school student in Fort Smith School District. After discussion, Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to grant this petition for a transfer from the Van Buren School District to the Fort Smith School District. The vote passed 3/2 with Mr. Hanesworth and Ms. Richardson opposing.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Cole attended professional development for FSPS teachers and discussed the Second Step program. Dr. Mehl asked that the District continue to work toward sharing more information about the school choice deadline.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mr. Joey McCutchen addressed the board to consider the bid submitted by Altes Sanitation. Mr. McCutchen stated that the low bid submitted by the City of Fort Smith should not be considered since the 'City did not have a recycling program in place at the time of bids'. Mr. Bobby Altes answered questions from the Board regarding his recycling program and his agreement with Smurfit Kappa to process the recycling. Mr. Altes agreed to consider extending service to the District beyond the June 30 contract expiration date. Mr. Jeff Dingman addressed the Board and stated that the City bid included recycling in the contract price submitted. He added that the recycling program began on June 26.

Sanitation Bids

After the Citizen's Participation discussion regarding sanitation, Dr. Brubaker recommended tabling the sanitation services decision. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to table the sanitation services bid item. The vote passed 5/0.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Deanie Mehl, President

Bill Hanesworth, Secretary