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## Board of Education

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Minutes of Called School Board Meeting  
The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held June 10, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Sherri Penix, Supervisor of Human Resources and Campus Support, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present for Citizens' Participation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Professional Staff Recommendations**

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

#### **Resignations**

##### Certified

Sheehan, David  
Irvin, Jonathon

##### Classified

Sanabria, Manuel Ordonez

#### **Retirements**

##### Certified

Allison, Deana

Classified

None

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to accept the recommendations for resignations and retirements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

**Employment**

Certified

Cantrell, Patrick

Young, Nancy

Hubbs, Sara

Phelan, Jana Carol

Gonnerman, Jamie

Martinez, Brittany

McKnight, Eric

Ottman, Amy

Dunn, Brett

Carter, Laura

Mills, Emily

Classified

Koprovic McAlvain, Mary Beth

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

There were no Leaves of Absence.

**Introduction of New Administrator**

Dr. Brubaker recognized Mr. Vance Gregory for his promotion to Executive Director of Technology. Mr. Gregory expressed thanks for the opportunity.

**Current Bids and Proposals**

Dr. Brubaker stated that this is an information item and no action was required.

Mr. Warren presented the following information related to current bids and proposals.

**Insurance Renewals**

All policies listed above remain consistent with the prior year in regard to both coverage and deductible.

Policy	Provider	2018-2019	Difference	2019-2020
Student Accident	L.E. Smith & Assoc.	\$83,055		\$83,055
Professional Liability	BHC	\$28,094	(\$195)	\$27,899
Property, Vehicle & Mobile Equipment	ASBA	\$689,205	\$2,940	\$692,145
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$800,354</b>	<b>\$2,745</b>	<b>\$803,099</b>

### **Electronic Transfer of Funds**

Dr. Brubaker stated that Section 7.20 – Electronic Fund Transfers of the District’s financial policies was recently adopted by the Board to become effective July 1, 2019. This policy is a new approach that will require the business office to provide a list for each new fiscal year of anticipated electronic fund transfers (EFTs) to be authorized by the Disbursing Officer of the Board.

He added that the following page is the list of EFTs for 2019-2020 with the authorization to complete these recurring transactions electronically. All funds released will be initiated by the District, following standard District internal controls and recordkeeping. If a new EFT is generated in the next year, an additional authorization from the Disbursing Officer will be initiated.

Mr. Warren reported that this authorization is required for the disbursing officer of the Board, but not by the full Board. No action was required by the Board.

### **Governor's Message**

Dr. Brubaker expressed gratitude to Governor Hutchinson for his video message about the one year anniversary of Vision 2023 and the development of the Career Technology Center.

### **AAA Update**

Dr. Brubaker updated the Board on the Arkansas Activities Association’s (AAA) realignment plan to move Southside High School to the West Conference and leave Northside High School in the Central Conference. Dr. Brubaker reported that an appeal will be filed to change this assignment once the District received official notification from AAA of conference assignments. Board members expressed concern and Mr. Magness suggested litigation action if this decision stands.

### **Waiver Update**

Dr. Brubaker reported that on June 13 he will be presenting a request to the Arkansas State School Board that the last three days of school in May be waived due to the severe flooding in the Fort Smith area.

Dr. Brubaker noted that because the June 10 agenda was lengthy, it might not be necessary to meet at the regularly June 24 scheduled meeting time. He would keep the board posted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the May 20, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting and June 3 Called Board Meeting, May Financial Report, June Student Services Report, and approval of the 2019-20 Title I Part C Migrant Education Grant Assurances.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

### **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2019 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION FOR THE SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT SMITH**

Dr. Brubaker reported that results of the 2019 School Board Election for the Special School District of Fort Smith (Fort Smith Public Schools) were certified June 3 by the Sebastian County Board of Election Commissioners. A copy of the signed original certification was included for review. The administration recommended that the Board acknowledge receipt of the election results. Mr. Greg Magness made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to acknowledge receipt of the election results as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ms. McFerran reported that this was the first regularly scheduled meeting since the May 21 School Board Election. The Sebastian County Board of Election Commissioners have certified the election results. Ms. McFerran presented the slate of officers nominated at the June 3 meeting: Ms. Susan McFerran, President, Talicia Richardson, Vice-President and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin as Secretary. Ms. Richardson stated that she would like to decline the nomination for vice-president. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness to reopen nominations. The vote passed 7/0.

#### President

Ms. McFerran asked if there were any other nominations for president. Ms. Cole nominated Mr. Hanesworth for president. There were no other nominations. After discussion, Ms. McFerran asked for votes for Ms. McFerran. Votes for Ms. McFerran were: Mr. Magness, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Keaton-Martin and Ms. McFerran. She then asked for votes for Mr. Hanesworth. Votes for Mr. Hanesworth were: Ms. Cole, Mr. Gilkey and Mr. Hanesworth. Ms. McFerran was selected as president by a 4/3 vote.

#### Vice President

Ms. McFerran stated that Ms. Richardson removed her name from the nomination of vice-president. She then asked for nominations for vice-president. Ms. Richardson nominated Mr. Hanesworth for vice-president. There were no other nominations and Mr. Hanesworth was selected as vice-president by a 7/0 vote.

#### Secretary

Ms. McFerran stated that Ms. Keaton-Martin was nominated for secretary. There were no other nominations and Ms. Keaton-Martin was selected as secretary by a 7/0 vote.

## **DESIGNATION OF BOARD DISBURSING OFFICERS**

Dr. Brubaker reported that Act 671 of 2003 requires that at the first regular meeting following the annual school election, the Board of Education of each school district must designate one of its members who shall serve as the primary board disbursing officer of the District. The Board may designate one or more of its members as an alternate board disbursing officer in the absence of the designated primary board officer. The President and Vice-President have traditionally been designated as the primary and alternate board disbursing officers, respectively.

The administration recommended that the Board designate a Primary Board Disbursing Officer and Alternate Board Disbursing Officer and adopt the resolution.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to nominate Mr. Hanesworth as primary Board Disbursing Officer until the next annual election. The vote passed 7/0. Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to nominate Ms. Keaton-Martin as Alternate Board Disbursing Officer to serve until the next annual election.

Mr. Magness made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to adopt the resolution designating Mr. Bill Hanesworth as primary Board Disbursing Officer and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin as Alternate Board Disbursing Officer to serve until the next annual election. The vote passed 7/0.

## **CONSIDER SPECIAL EDUCATION 2019-2020 TUITION AGREEMENT WITH RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES WITHIN DISTRICT**

The 2019-2020 Tuition Agreement for each Residential Facility housed in the Fort Smith Public School District was reviewed for approval. The District must submit these forms on an annual basis to verify that the district agrees to provide related services to students identified as needing speech, occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy in accordance with federal and state guidelines. The District complies with these federal and state rules. Therefore, as requested by the Arkansas Department of Education, these forms need Board authorization including signatures from the Board President and Superintendent.

The administration recommended that the Board approve the Tuition Agreement with Residential Facilities within the District for 2019-2020.

Ms. Talicia Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the Tuition Agreement with Residential Facilities within the District. The vote passed 7/0.

## **CONSIDER TRANSITIONING FROM A CERTIFIED SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER (CSSO) PROGRAM TO AN INSTITUTIONAL POLICE PROGRAM**

Dr. Morawski and Mr. Hollenbeck reported that the Governor's Safe School Task Force was commissioned in 2018 and conducted an extensive and comprehensive study on modern

practices to keep schools safe. Numerous recommendations were developed as a result of this commission. One recommendation on which the Arkansas Legislature took action was in passing a law to allow public schools to hire their own Institutional Police Officers.

Fort Smith Public Schools is committed in providing to students, staff and the community the most effective and professional service of protection that falls in line with the important mission of providing a safe and secure learning environment. The transition from Commissioned School Security Officers (CSSO) to police officers allows the Fort Smith Public Schools to take the protection of students to the next level that falls in line with the promise of Vision 2023.

Date	Transitioning from CSSO to Institutional Police Officer
June 10, 2019	Institutional Police Officer Resolution
July 11, 2019	Presentation to Law Enforcement Commission (CLEST)
July 24, 2019	Institutional Police Officer Law Takes Effect
July 25, 2019	Transition begins with current CSSO
August 15, 2019	Transition Complete for start of 2019/2020 School Year

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to transition from a certified school security officer (CSSO) program to an institutional police program. The vote passed 5/2 with Ms. Richardson and Mr. Magness opposing.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hanesworth, to adopt the resolution in support of the District's transition to Institutional Police Officers as presented. The vote passed 5/2 with Ms. Richardson and Mr. Magness opposing.

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

Mr. Steve Sparling, HPM Senior Project Manager, presented an update to board members on Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Projects to Morrison Elementary School and Ramsey Junior High School. Architect Mr. Galen Hunter of MAHG presented an update to board members regarding Ramsey Junior High School. Board members expressed concern about drainage issues. Dr. Morawski stated that the administration would address these concerns and bring the issue back to the board.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS AT RISK FOR NORTHSIDE AND SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL VISION 2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Mr. Sparling presented recommendations for construction managers at risk for Northside High School and Southside High School. Mr. Sparling referenced the RFQ and interview process used for selecting these firms. The district received six responses from qualified firms. These RFQ submissions were reviewed and scored by a committee between May 1 and May 15, 2019. The committee consisted of FSPS Representatives and representatives of HPM, the District's project management firm. Nabholz was the recommendation for Northside High School. Turnkey Construction and Baldwin & Shell Construction were the recommendation for Southside High School.

The Administration recommended that the Board of Education approve the recommended construction firms for the Vision 2023 High School Projects and authorize the Superintendent to execute a construction contract in a form approved by legal counsel. Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommended construction firms for the Vision 2023 High School Projects and authorize the Superintendent to execute a construction contract in a form approved by legal counsel. The vote passed 7/0.

### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. McFerran referenced attending one of the summer breakfast and lunch programs at Fairview Elementary School noting that there were several elementary schools serving meals. Ms. McFerran expressed that the Partners In Education Luncheon was well attended at the Career Technology Center. Ms. Cole expressed gratitude to Dr. Owen for his years of service and congratulations on his retirement from the District.

Ms. Richardson asked that since she couldn't abstain, the minutes reflect that in regards to her opposed vote against the transition from a certified school security officer (CSSO) to an institutional police program, she felt that she did not have enough information to make an adequate and informed decision.

### **ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

At 6:55 the board and superintendent retired to executive session for the purpose of the annual evaluation of the superintendent. Dr. Brubaker left the executive session at 8:15 p.m. He returned to executive session at 8:25 p.m. At 8:27, the Board reconvened to open session. Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the third amended superintendent contract and extend the term through 2022. The vote passed 7/0.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Susan McFerran, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary