

Board of Education

Minutes of Work Session
The Board of Education

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held February 18, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Euper Lane Elementary School, Media Center, 6601 Euper Lane.

Board Members Present: Ms. Susan McFerran, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Jeannie Cole. Mr. Bill Hanesworth. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin and Ms. Talicia Richardson were absent. Administrators and Staff Present: Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, Mr. Marty Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent.

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CONSIDER ADOPTING FINANCIAL POLICY SECTION 7.21 FOR FIRST READING

Dr. Brubaker reported that last December, the Board adopted financial policies with language used in the model policies provided by Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). The ASBA model policies included policies that the administration is still reviewing to determine if the policy is necessary and appropriate. He reported that the administration has reviewed Section 7.21, Naming School Facilities. This policy, as with the previously approved policies, is requested to be effective July 1, 2019.

Mr. Warren reviewed the following:

Except as otherwise permitted in this policy or Arkansas law, the District shall not name any building, structure, or facility, paid for in whole or in part with District funds, for an individual living at the time of its completion who, in the ten (10) years preceding its construction, was elected, or held, a federal, state, county, or municipal office and received a salary for his/her service.

Exceptions to the preceding paragraph may be made when a building, structure, or facility is constructed through the use of at least 50% private funds or, the name refers to:

1. an individual(s) living at the time of its completion and who has historical significance;
2. an individual who is or has been a prisoner of war; or
3. a living individual who is at least 75 years of age and is retired.

The administration recommended that the board consider approval on the first reading, the Financial Policies, Section 7.21 – Naming School Facilities, as presented, to be effective July 1, 2019 at the February 25 regularly scheduled board meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES WITH TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 TO AND INCLUDING JUNE 30, 2021

Mr. Warren reported that the proposed budget of expenditures and the corresponding tax levy must be published at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual school election that will be held in May 2019. This published budget documents the school tax rate of 42.058 mills. This tax levy is the same rate approved by voters in the May, 2018 school election. Mr. Warren reported that the proposed budget is based upon a projection of expenditures during the 2020-2021 fiscal year at the current millage rate. The act of publishing this budget is an action required to comply with Arkansas' constitutional provisions relative to the ad valorem tax.

The Administration recommends that the Board approve this 2020-2021 proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy for 2020-2021 to be published as required by law at the February 25 regularly scheduled board meeting.

CONSIDER RELEASE OF LAND NEEDED FOR HIGHWAY 255 WIDENING PROJECT

Dr. Morawski reported that the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority (FCRA) has received notice from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) that it is beginning the appraisal process for the acquisitions of necessary rights-of-way for the Highway 255 widening and relocation project. As part of that project, ARDOT was asked to relocate the northern end of Wells Lake Road due to safety concerns. FCRA reports that ARDOT was not willing to install a traffic light where the current Wells Lake Road would intersect Highway 255. He reported that the piece of property that ARDOT is requesting is about 0.69 acres and runs through the northeast corner of the property that FCRA has reserved for Fort Smith Public Schools.

FCRA has an agreement with ARDOT that the value of any property acquired from FCRA would be credited toward the \$2 million commitment FCRA has made to assist with the cost of this project. When FCRA receives the official acquisition request from ARDOT, it will have to be presented to the FCRA board for approval. But first, FCRA has asked if Fort Smith Schools will release this property in order for FCRA to convey it to ARDOT in order to provide for a safer intersection for the public.

Dr. Morawski reported that if FCRA conveys the strip of land required by ARDOT, this will create a roughly one or more acre, triangular island between the current location of Wells Lake Road & the new location. FCRA has requested that Fort Smith Schools release the entire northeast corner from the western side of the proposed new location of Wells Lake Road over to the western side of the current Wells Lake Road location.

The Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) currently borders the east side of Wells Lake Road. If Fort Smith Public Schools releases that corner, ACHE has a first right of refusal to purchase it from FCRA. This transfer would mean that ACHE property would still border Wells Lake Road on the east side.

The administration recommends that the board authorize the superintendent to execute the conveyance of the .69 acres of the Chaffee property identified in the attached map for the right of way needed for the widening of Highway 255 and the roughly one-acre triangular island between the current location of Wells Lake Road and the new location of Highway 255 at the February 25 regularly scheduled board meeting.

VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Morawski, Mr. Jay Kirkpatrick, Hoar Program Management (HPM) and Mr. Eric Horstman, Corgan Architects presented an update on Vision 2023 Capital Improvements to Southside High School and Northside High School. Dr. Morawski reported that board members would be updated monthly on projects as they progressed

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Mr. Magness expressed concern about being told that students do not having an option for study hall at Southside High School. Dr. Brubaker and Dr. Owen explained that students still have the option to have a study hall but may choose to select internships or other career related options as well.

Dr. Brubaker updated board members on PPC election process.

Dr. Brubaker asked board members if they would like to host the ASBA Regional meeting in October

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary