



Board of Education

Minutes

The Board of Education

A Called School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, June 14, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Ms McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Matt Blaylock and Mr. Troy Eckelhoff. Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent, 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, Office Manager to the Superintendent were also present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported that the next regularly scheduled board meeting is June 28. A work session is scheduled for July 12. This potentially could be a called board meeting. The July 26 board meeting likely will be cancelled due to a conflict with the AAEA Conference scheduled at this time.

Dr. Morawski reported that Mr. Charles Warren has been selected to receive the 2020 Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (ARCPA) Outstanding CPA in Government Award. This award recognizes the achievements of individual CPAs in government service. Emphasis for selecting the winner of this award is placed primarily on a candidate's contribution to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of his/her government organization and the growth and enhancement of the accounting profession. Mr. Warren will be formally recognized on August 5.

Dr. Morawski reported that Human Resources and District staff are still interviewing for new hires.

Dr. Morawski reported that the District has standardized office hours in schools and administration buildings.

Dr. Morawski noted that there are several bids included in the Superintendent Report.

Dr. Morawski reported that Mr. Blaylock, Mr. Eckelhoff and himself, will attend the New School Board Member training in Hot Springs on June 17.

Dr. Morawski recognized the promotion of the following employees and gave them an opportunity to address the board.

Dr. Ginni McDonald has been selected as the Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Professional Learning. This position incorporates the current responsibilities of the supervisor of professional development and oversees, under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, curriculum development and content, program design and budgets for education programs. Dr. McDonald has served FSPS for the last 10 years in a variety of roles including Director of Secondary Education, Principal of Northside High School and Assistant Principal of Northside. She also earned distinction as the 2016 Arkansas Secondary Principal of the Year.

Ms. Lori Griffin has been selected as the Director of Elementary Education. Ms. Griffin has served as the principal of Ballman Elementary School since 2013 and also previously served as an elementary principal in Ozark. Dr. Morawski stated that she is a leader in the district and the State for her work in developing Ballman as a Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) school. Ms. Griffin will oversee the operation of 19 elementary schools (PK-5) as she supervises elementary school principals, and assigned curriculum under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. She will also plan, coordinate and administer the functions of elementary school curriculum, professional development, student services, school improvement efforts, and student data integrity.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Penix presented personnel recommendations for June approval. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED SALE OF LAND TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Mahan reported that the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has requested to purchase 3.36 acres of the Peak property in order to widen Highway 255. ARDOT has agreed to pay the appraised value of the land. Mr. Mahan provided a map detailing the area.

Mr. Shaffer provided dimensions and details about the land sale. Ms. McFerran stated that a tour was scheduled for Wednesday and Mr. Shaffer would be able to provide a more detailed look at this area.

Dr. Morawski noted that this negotiation has been ongoing for two years. Ms. Richardson noted that the monies should go back into the Peak Center budget for expenses that might arise in the future.

Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the District to sale 3.36 acres of the land at the Peak Innovation Center to the Arkansas Department of Transportation. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING MORRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Mahan and Mr. Shaffer presented the board with a resolution for Morrison Elementary School tornado damage on May 3, 2021. The facility sustained damage that includes, but is not limited to the roof, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems. Due to the emergency situation, the district expedited the interview and selection process of local construction managers.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the goal is to get students and staff into the building by August 16. Mr. Shaffer provided an update from May 3 to present.

Monday, May 3, 2021: EF-1 Tornado hits Morrison

- Tuesday, May 4, 2021: FSPS damage assessment performed by MAHG and engineering firm
- Wednesday, May 5, 2021: ADE and NEARK Adjustment Company performed catastrophic summary
- Thursday, May 6, 2021: MAHG assessment complete
- Monday, May 10, 2021: consulted ADE Facilities Division regarding next steps
- Monday, May 24, 2021: Morrison update requested by BOE

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the scoresheet for selecting the General Contractor along with the following timeline of the process.

Candidate Interviews/complete evaluations: **05/28/2021**

Recommendations to FSPS senior leadership: **06/04/2021**

Proposed contract being evaluated by attorney: **06/07/2021**

Recommendations to Board of Education: **06/14/2021**

After discussion, the administration's recommendation is that the board approve the resolution to engage Beshears Construction to complete the repairs needed as a result of the 2021 tornado damage at Morrison.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to approve the resolution to engage Beshears Construction to complete the repairs needed as a result of the 2021 tornado damage at Morrison. The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Mahan introduced Mr. Ditto to provide a Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Plan projects update with an emphasis on the Peak Center.

He provided construction updates for Northside High School, Southside High School, Darby Middle School, the Peak Innovation Center, Walls Package B at elementary schools, Access and Security Package B and C at elementary schools. Mr. Ditto provided a Master Program Schedule Snapshot of the projects.

Dr. Morawski stated that he would like to schedule a time for the board members to tour Darby Middle School.

Ms. Richardson requested a comparison of initial projects expected completion dates with comparison to where projects are now or were as completed, considering COVID and slow delivery of materials on some projects. She thought it would be good for the community to see as well.

Mr. Blaylock requested the amount of Turnkey Construction's contract. Mr. Ditto didn't have this information with him and said he'd get back with an update on this.

This was a presentation and no action was required.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Mr. Person requested an opportunity to tour all schools with renovations completed. Dr. Morawski stated that he can look into scheduling tours for board members.

Mr. Person noted that numbers came out recently with reclassification of schools and requested that Mr. Beaumont or administration provide an update regarding the possibility of getting Northside and Southside high schools back in the same conference.

Ms. McFerran announced the board would go into executive session with Dr. Morawski for the Superintendent's annual evaluation at 6:20 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL EVALUATION

At 6:20 p.m. the board and Dr. Morawski went into executive session to discuss the annual evaluation of the superintendent. At 7:50 p.m., Dr. Morawski left the board to deliberate. Board members returned to open session at 9:30 p.m.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EXTENDED CONTRACT

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to approve the superintendent's extended contract with a term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. The vote passed 7/0.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:31.

Susan McFerran, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary