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## 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, January 24, 2022, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind Road, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Ms. McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Dee Blackwell, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin 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. 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. 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.

#### Orr Elementary

Dr. Dawn Childress, principal at Orr Elementary, and the Orr education team, were recognized for earning the High-Reliability Schools Level 1 Accreditation from Marzano Resources. Orr is the first school in the district to receive this accreditation.

The High Reliability School (HRS) program was created by Marzano Resources to help transform schools into organizations that take proactive steps to ensure student success. Educators learn to assess, monitor, and confirm the effectiveness of their schools. Schools must collect data and validate their performance. Certification is determined by Marzano Resources analysts in cooperation with school data teams.

Level 1 certification means Orr Elementary School has established a culture that meets the "Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture" criteria. This is the foundation for every level that follows.

Dr. Childress explained the criteria that the school met over a three-year period to receive this accreditation.

### **ARKANSAS SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH**

Ms. Marshall stated that Governor Asa Hutchinson had declared January 2022 as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. Districts throughout Arkansas celebrated the work that board members do on behalf of students and employees. Ms. Marshall read Governor Hutchinson's resolution aloud. Hundreds of second graders from across the District wrote and colored notes expressing their appreciation for board members. These were displayed for board members to view at the January 24 meeting.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Matthew Graham, FSPS teacher spoke regarding the wearing of masks.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Morawski recognized Dr. Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support for a new staffing announcement. Dr. Davis stated that a committee recommended Coach Felix Curry as the new head football coach at Northside High School. Coach Curry has been at Northside since 2013 and is currently an assistant coach at Northside.

Dr. Morawski reported that he hoped to bring the Facility Naming Policy back to the Board in February.

He stated there had been inquiries about naming of the Northside arena and expected that there would be more as projects were completed.

Dr. Morawski stated that an appeal letter would be sent to the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) this week in regards to Northside High School football. Recent realignment had virtually all Northside sports except football in the 7A West along with Southside. Northside football had been placed in the 7A Central Group. The 7A Central group includes schools in the Little Rock area as well as a recent addition of Jonesboro which is even further in distance. These long distances to travel to games could affect students' education, as well as increased costs to the District and parents who travel to these games. Dr. Morawski stated that an appeal hearing would be held by the AAA board in February. If denied by the board, the appeal would then go to each conference and need a two-thirds vote by the 7A West to receive Northside and 7A Central to release Northside.

Dr. Morawski stated that board members had asked how to show appreciation to staff for doing whatever it took to keep schools open this past month by doing extra duties and tasks that weren't necessarily part of their normal duties due to high COVID numbers. Dr. Morawski expressed appreciation as well and stated that staff were offered "jeans month", candy and food deliveries. Full-time staff will also receive a \$1,000 bonus. Dr. Morawski thanked Mr. Warren and the Payroll staff who were working toward making this available in March before Spring Break.

Dr. Morawski provided a COVID 19 Response Plan Update. He reviewed State infection rates and provided a comparison of infections for school districts from an ACHI report. Dr. Morawski reported that the District numbers were moving in a good direction from earlier weeks. Dr.

Morawski reminded the board that the mask requirement put in place for 30 days would expire on February 9. Ms. McFerran suggested meeting on February 7 for a called board meeting and cancelling the February 14 Work Session. Dr. Morawski asked for feedback from board members. All board members agreed that they could meet on February 7 for a called board meeting.

Dr. Morawski noted that Coach Felix Curry had arrived and Dr. Davis introduced him.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the December Financial Statement, December 13 Minutes and January 10 Minutes, January Professional Staff Recommendations, January Student Services Report, adoption of second and final reading of Sections 1, 2 and 6 of Board Policies, adoption of second and final reading of Section 7 Policy related to Therapy Animals, final approval of the resolution concerning Fort Smith Public School Board Zones, approval of the demolition of three school buses, and report of school board training hours requirement met.

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

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURPLE STAR RESOLUTION**

Dr. Bone reported that there were 200 military connected students in the District and by adopting the resolution and achieving purple star status, the District is committed to showing support to military families when they move into a District. Dr. Bone reported that the District has 16 schools that have decided to pursue this status at this time.

She introduced Dr. Farrell, the District Military Liaison. Dr. Farrell reported that the Arkansas Purple Star School Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to the nation's armed forces. Purple Star awardees receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their building and recognized on the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website. Dr. Farrell stated that the District goal is to have all schools participate and achieve District Purple Star status.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Person, to approve the Purple Star Resolution in Support of Military Families. The vote passed 7/0.

#### **CONSIDER ADOPTING 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 CALENDARS**

Mr. Mahan stated that the Arkansas Legislation passed ACT 688 in the last session. ACT 688 states that beginning with the 2022-2023 school calendar that the earliest the first day of the school can be scheduled is on the Monday that is two weeks prior to Labor Day. Mr. Mahan reported that meetings have been conducted with the Classified Personnel Policy Committee, the Certified Personnel Policy Committee (PPC), and the administrative team. The PPC Calendar Committee and an Administrative Calendar Committee provided feedback and input in the proposed 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Year Calendars. The PPCs voted to endorse and the

administrative team supports the two proposed calendars. The administration recommended that the Board of Education approve the updated 2022-2023 School Year Calendar and the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar as presented.

After discussion, Ms. Blackwell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the updated 2022-2023 School Year Calendar and the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar, as presented.

**PRESENTATION –ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FACILITIES PLAN AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Dr. Morawski noted that these projects were in development and presented for the board to review but no action was required at this time.

Mr. Shaffer discussed the following projects:

- 1) Kimmons Middle School Cafeteria, expansion of an additional 6,000 square feet, to the existing 2,800 square foot, increasing the space per person from 3 foot to 10 foot, adding 50 more tables and 400 more seats at a cost of approximately \$2,000,000.
- 2) Morrison Elementary, classroom additions on the northwest corner of the building adding approximately 4,300 academic square foot of space, adding enough additional space for the addition of students from Trusty, meeting DESE requirements, Morrison can accommodate the additional students, Trusty currently is not meeting the DESE requirements, current cost estimate is \$5,000,000.
- 3) Ramsey Middle School Classroom, additions of 4 classrooms, will increase classroom space by 4,700 from 40 square foot per student to 62 square foot per student, will allow district to consider the removal of portable classrooms based on student population, at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000.
- 4) District Indoor Quality Improvement for the District, Scott Archer from HSA Engineering and John Watson from Ecosense were available for questions, (Mr. Shaffer noted that Trusty, Darby and Cook were not included in the District Air Quality Improvement list because of Trusty students being placed at Morrison and Darby and Cook's needs were met as part of the capital improvement at those schools.)

First tiered approach is the design

Dilution of the air (CDC recommends a classroom of 30X30 with 25 students has 4 ACH at a minimum) creating a dedicated outside air source  
Filtration (ASHRE recommends a MERV 13 filter) (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers)  
All units will have filters upgraded to MERV-13 where applicable  
Disinfect the air - UV-c lighting will be included to disinfect air  
Bipolar ionization utilized.

Second tiered approach is which units to replace since R-22 is a refrigerant that is going away, other considerations are age of units and student population  
Estimated cost is 16 million to 19 million (hard and soft cost)

- 5) Virtual K-12 office space, the Conversion Charter staff would be housed at Peak, staff are currently throughout the District, cost to be determined

Mr. Shaffer noted that these funds are available for three years and that window began in July of 2021.

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

Mr. Shaffer provided the following capital improvement updates:

Northside High School – Seatbacks are complete, lighting complete, waiting on final closeout and retainage payment,

Southside High School – waiting on final closeout and retainage payment

Peak Innovation Center – waiting on electrical and plumbing inspections, front drive asphalt, punch list scheduled, with design team, lab equipment continues to be installed and calibrated, interior and exterior signage is ongoing, office furniture scheduled to be installed, elevator inspection,

Darby Middle School – Graphics to be completed, retainage processed

Access and Security at Trusty Elementary School – final punch list to be completed

Beard and Euper Lane elementary schools are complete and retainage payments made

Morrison complete and final payout received

#### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. McFerran referenced a newsletter encouraging students to display acts of kindness for each day of the week at District schools. Dr. Bone noted that these are tenets of Capturing Kids Hearts.

Ms. Richardson reported that she toured the Ronald McDonald House new facility and gave a shout out to students' as she was made aware of Northside and Southside students participating over the past five years through the Red Shoe Club donating over \$60,000 to the Ronald McDonald House.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

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Susan McFerran, President

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Dee Blackwell, Secretary