



Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, June 22, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B., 3205 Jenny Lind, per COVID19 CDC Guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Susan McFerran, Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Dalton Person, and Ms. Dee Blackwell. Mr. Wade Gilkey and Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, 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, Secretary to the Superintendent were also present.

A moment of silence and pledge of allegiance followed.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for Citizen Participation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included: the June 22 Professional Staff Recommendations, minutes of the June 12 Board Meeting, May Financial Report, Student Services Report, second reading of Classified Policies, renewal of Professional Learning Communities, renewal of the New Tech Network Contract at Belle Point Alternative Center for 2020-2021, K-2 Device Purchases, Designating August 10 work session as a called board meeting, and Schoology as a Learning Management System.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Warren to present the current proposals, bids and renewals.

Mr. Warren presented the following bid:

Industrial Maintenance Software & Equipment

Requested by: Dr. Gary Udouj, Director of Career Education & District Innovation
Selection Method: Request for Proposal

Funding Source: Grant funding

Award: Sivad Inc.

Bid Count: Two, both were national suppliers

Additional Information: The equipment will be used to teach the Industrial Maintenance pathway as a part of the Advanced Manufacturing program at Peak.

This was an information item and no recommendation was required.

Dr. Brubaker updated the Board on a survey completed by approximately 200 seniors that presented options for them to consider for graduation. The survey results of those that responded were that their wish was to have an “in person” graduation. He stated that options being considered were an early morning graduation at the high school football fields, or a ceremony at the convention center. After discussion with board members, it was decided to bring a more detailed plan to the board to discuss in the near future.

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A COVID19 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Dr. Brubaker stated that In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provisions of federal and state law have been waived or modified. Some of the most significant changes have resulted from the “Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLA) and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSL), as enacted in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.” These changes differ from district policy and are intended to be temporary.

In order to account for these differences and prepare for future temporary modifications of federal and state law that affect district policies, the Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA) has drafted a model resolution. It allows the district to operate according to these modifications and requires the superintendent to notify the Board of “changes made pursuant to this resolution.”

The administration recommends that the Board adopt the resolution as presented. After discussion, Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to adopt the resolution as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION OF 18 HOURS OF THE EXISTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFIED STAFF FOR 2020- 2021

Dr. Brubaker reported that the Board approve the recommendation to designate 18 hours of the existing annual 54 hour professional development requirement to be in virtual instruction and remote learning. This requirement will be for all certified staff and created and facilitated by district staff.

Certified staff members will have multiple options in obtaining the technology professional development. Certified staff members will be able to demonstrate proficiency by testing out of certain courses and/or attend virtual courses or face-to-face courses.

CARES Act funds will be used to award certified staff members a \$500 stipend upon completion.

After discussion, Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to require all certified

staff attend 18 hours of professional development in virtual instruction and remote learning, and to authorize CARES Act funds to be used to award a \$500 stipend upon the completion of the 18 hours during the 2020-2021 school year. The vote passed 7/0.

APPROVAL OF AN ONLINE AND BLENDED LEARNING PARTNERSHIP WITH PEARSON

Mr. Martin reported that a partnership with Pearson would allow the district to build a digital learning solution for the 2020-2021 school year that allows students to access 7 courses of curriculum per year at \$500 per student. The partnership would provide students access to individual courses on an as needed basis.

The administration recommended that the Board approve the partnership with Pearson for the 2020-2021 school year.

After discussion, Mr. Gilley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin to authorize the partnership with Pearson for the 2020-2021 school year. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CRUX TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Brubaker reported that the COVID-19 Pandemic has required that the district utilize technology in unprecedented ways in order to provide services to students and the community. Continued planning and research are needed to identify a feasible, long-term solution for student internet access. An independent assessment is also needed in the coming year of the district's data center at the Rogers Center. The projected cost for these projects is \$15,000.

He noted that the services agreement permits the district to pursue these projects and to secure professional guidance on an as-needed basis on other technology issues that may arise.

After discussion, Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the professional services agreement as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVING LEASE AGREEMENT

Mr. Warren reported that because of the District's current construction schedule, Southside will be without a Child Nutrition (CN) kitchen for the first four months of school in FY21. The CN serving line facility will be the east safe room for this same period. Northside will be without both a CN kitchen and a CN service line facility for the entire upcoming school year. After reviewing several options, the administration recommended that the District rent the commercial kitchen equipment and facilities from Grand Avenue Baptist Church (GABC). CN staff will cook the meals at GABC for both high schools and transport the food daily to the two campuses for the first four months. For the remaining school year, the GABC equipment and facilities would be utilized for preparing Northside meals.

The lease agreement was provided to the School Board for review and was prepared by the District's attorney. The term is for twelve months at a cost of \$1,000 per month. The CN staff would plan to begin prepping the GABC facilities in July.

While many venues were reviewed, the GABC equipment and facility was chosen for its size, accessibility, location, and availability. CN staff plans to bring in additional equipment to the GABC

facilities for storage and food prep purposes. The purchase of an additional serving cottage (formerly known as a portable building) would be needed at Northside and placed on campus for the full school year. The building will provide appropriate spacing for social distancing and allow CN staff to prepare salads and other meals not required to be cooked.

Additional cost of this remote kitchen included the purchases of cargo vans and heated transport cabinets. These items will be available for CN after the remote kitchen operations are complete. Total costs for the remote kitchen set up and operations are estimated to be \$400,000.

After discussion, Mr. Gilkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the lease agreement with Grand Avenue Baptist Church for the use of the church's commercial kitchen equipment and facilities for 2020-2021. The vote passed 7/0.

PRESENTATION - VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Morawski introduced Mr. James Adams, HPM Vice President to provide a project update for construction. He reviewed the master schedule of construction projects at Northside, Southside and Ramsey, and pre-construction projects. Board members discussed their wishes to use local Fort Smith and River Valley construction companies with Mr. Adams.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR PEAK INNOVATION CENTER (CMAR)

Mr. Adams presented the following schedule and process for recommending the CMAR for the Peak Innovation Center project.

Date	Construction RFQ Event
May 21, 2020	RFQ Advertised on District Website
May 21, 2020	RFQ Advertised in Newspaper
May 28, 2020	Pre-submittal Meeting
June 5, 2020	RFQ Deadline
June 10-18, 2020	RFQ Scoring & Evaluation & Interviews
<i>June 22, 2020</i>	<i>Board Considers Award of RFQ</i>

- Request for Qualifications published **05/21/2020. (16 Interested)**
- Mandatory pre-submittal meeting **06/01/20. (8 Contractors)**
- Site reconnaissance tour **06/01/20.**
- Submittals received **06/05/20. (6 Contractors)**
- Candidate Interviews **06/17/2020. (4 Contractors)**
- Board approval **06/22/2020.**
- CMAR Contract signed for preconstruction services **06/29/2020.**
- Estimated completion: **Summer, 2021.**
- Anticipated construction cost of work: **\$8.4.million**

The recommendation to the Board was to award the Construction Manager at Risk for The Peak Innovation Center to C.R. Crawford. After discussion among board members and Mr. Adams regarding qualifications and rating scale, Mr. Person made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to award the CMAR contract to Turnkey Construction. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Richardson spoke on recent events related to Black Lives Matter and asked that we don't lose sight of what we do as a District. She and other board members commended Mr. Hollenbeck on his attendance at Bridging the Gap and his engagement with the community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL EVALUATION

At 7:39 the board and Dr. Brubaker went into executive session to discuss the annual evaluation of the superintendent. Dr. Brubaker left the board to deliberate at 8:21. Board President Hanesworth consulted with Mr. Ney, District Council at 8:30. Dr. Brubaker returned to executive session at 8:55 p.m. Board members and Dr. Brubaker returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S FOURTH AMENDED CONTRACT

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson to approve the superintendent's fourth amended contract adding five vacation days per year, and extending the contract with a term from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The vote passed 7/0.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary