



Board of Education

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 virtually on April 13, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in accordance with CDC COVID19 Guidelines.

Mr. Bill Hanesworth, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Dalton Person, Ms. Susan McFerran, Mr. Wade Gilkey, Ms. Talicia Richardson and Ms. Dee Blackwell. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Darian Layes, Executive Director of Student Services, Ms. Sherri Penix, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, 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 virtually present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker welcomed board members to the first virtual board meeting in the history of the District. He stated that an update of how students and staff have adapted to this new environment will be provided at the April 27 board meeting.

Professional Staff Recommendations

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Ms. Penix to present the professional staff recommendations. There were no leaves of absence.

Resignations

Certified

Young, Nancy
Johnston, Vickie
Merry, Krystle

Classified

Horton, Bruce

Retirements

Certified

Cagle Cynthia
Dupriest, Cortreia

Classified

None

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to accept the recommendation for resignations and retirements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment

Certified

Hutchens, Robert

Lewis, Ron

Classified

None

Board members and Ms. Penix discussed concerns about the ability to hire and retain special education teachers. Ms. Penix indicated that it is not only a District issue but statewide as well. Dr. Brubaker added that administration will continue to discuss financial incentives to retain special education teachers. Ms. Penix stated that the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith has a new program that is focus on building a special education program.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to approve the recommendations for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION TO ISSUE BONDS

Mr. Warren reported that in June of 2018, the Board reviewed a timeline to issue bonds supported by the 2018 election. The timeline provided flexibility to delay the \$31 million bond issue as needed.

Mr. Warren reported that the goal was to select a closing date that provided the lowest interest rate available. The Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate to zero percent on March 15, 2020. This should be a favorable impact on long-term bond rates, recommended for a June 9, 2020 closing date.

Stephens Inc. Financial Advisor, prepared the schedule of events as follows:

2020 Date	Event	Responsible Parties
April 13	School Board Authorizes Issuance of Construction Bonds	School Board
April 27	Preparation of Preliminary Official Statement (POS).	Stephens
April 27	Send Application to Moody's.	Stephens
May 5	Publish Notice of Sale (1st).	Stephens

May 12	Preliminary Official Statement and bid forms are sent to potential bidders.	Stephens
May 12	Publish Notice of Sale (2nd).	Stephens
May 19	Bond Issue is offered.	Stephens
May 25	School Board approves Bond Resolution and executes documents	School Board
June 9	Closing and transfer of Bond proceeds to the School District.	Stephens

The administration proposed to issue the bonds on June 9, 2020. These proceeds are required to be spent before June 9, 2023 and is believed to be sufficient time to complete all projects. An approved resolution is needed to proceed with the \$31 million bond issue as proposed.

Mr. Warren stated that the district is hoping to have an estimated debt service payment savings of \$200,000 annually below the project millage campaign.

The administration recommended that the board approve the resolution to issue bonds. Mr. Lee made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the resolution to issue \$31 million in bonds as proposed. The vote passed 7/0.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATEMENTS OF INTENT & ASSURANCES AND AGREEMENTS

Mr. Mahan presented the 2020-2021 Statement of Intent and the accompanying Assurances and Agreements for both preschool aged children and school aged children for review and approval. He reported that the District must submit these forms on an annual basis to verify that our district budget expend state and federal funds to provide a program of services in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

The administration recommended that the Board approve the 2020-2021 Statement of Intent and the accompanying Assurances and Agreements for both preschool aged children and school aged children. Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFerran, to authorize the Statements of Intent and accompanying Special Education Assurances and Agreements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

VISION 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Mr. George Watts, CCM, LEED AP, HPM, and Dr. Morawski presented project updates for Barling, Woods and Cook Elementary Schools, Northside High School, Southside High School, Ramsey Junior High School, and preconstruction updates for Darby Junior High School and the Peak Innovation Center.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR DARBY JUNIOR HIGH PROJECT

Mr. George Watts, CCM, LEED AP, HPM, and Dr. Morawski presented the schedule of request for qualifications for the construction project currently planned at Darby Junior High School as part of the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program. The schedule presented is listed below:

Date	Construction RFQ Event
February 19, 2020	RFQ Advertised on District Website
February 20, 2020	RFQ Advertised in Newspaper
March 3, 2020	Pre-submittal Meeting
March 20, 2020	RFQ Deadline
March 21 – April 9, 2020	RFQ Scoring & Evaluation & Interviews
<i>April 13, 2020</i>	<i>Board Considers Award of RFQ</i>

The administration recommended the Board award the Construction Manager at Risk project at Darby Junior High to Nabholz, as the most qualified contractor, to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor in a form approved by legal counsel.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, to award Construction Manager at Risk projects at Darby Junior High to the most qualified contractor to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor in a form approved by legal counsel. The vote passed 7/0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR SECURITY WALL PROJECTS

Mr. George Watts, CCM, LEED AP, HPM, and Dr. Morawski presented the schedule of request for qualifications for the construction projects currently planned for Security Wall Projects at Barling, Woods and Cook Elementary Schools as part of the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program. The schedule presented is listed below.

Date	Construction RFQ Event
February 18, 2020	RFQ Advertised on District Website
February 24, 2020	RFQ Advertised in Newspaper
February 28, 2020	Pre-submittal Meeting
March 24, 2020	RFQ Deadline
March 25 – April 9, 2020	RFQ Scoring & Evaluation & Interviews
<i>April 13, 2020</i>	<i>Board Considers Award of RFQ</i>

The administration recommended that the Board award the Construction Manager at Risk projects for Security Wall Projects at Barling and Woods Elementary Schools to Turn Key Construction Management and Cook Elementary School to Baldwin & Shell Construction as the most qualified contractors, to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor in a form approved by legal counsel.

Ms. McFerran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilkey, to award Construction Manager at Risk projects for Security Wall Projects at Barling, Woods and Cook Elementary Schools to the most

qualified contractor to proceed with the execution of a construction contract with the most qualified contractor in a form approved by legal counsel. The vote passed 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. Richardson inquired about parking at graduation ceremonies at both high schools in relation to construction and suggested talking with city officials. Dr. Morawski addressed possibly using offsite shuttling and looking at other options. He thanked Ms. Richardson for her comments.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Bill Hanesworth, President

Dee Blackwell, Secretary