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## Board of Education

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### Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held February 25, 2019, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg B.

Ms. Susan McFerran, president, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Mr. Greg Magness, Mr. Bill Hanesworth, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Talicia Richardson. Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent, Dr. Terry Morawski, Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Martin Mahan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support, Dr. Barry Owen, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director of Communication and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Nadine Brooks, Secretary to the Superintendent were present.

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

The consent agenda included the minutes of the January 28 Regular School Board Meeting, February 18 Work Session, January Financial Report, and January Student Services Report. Ms. Richardson asked Mr. Warren about the reserve of funds for activity accounts at schools and how the funds are monitored. Mr. Warren explained that activity funds can be carried over to other fiscal years. Ms. Richardson expressed concern about how to ensure equity in schools and how funds are carried forward. Dr. Brubaker stated that equity is important and one way to offset the imbalance to economically challenged schools is with funds that are made available to the District through National School Lunch, and Title I monies. Mr. Warren reported that a new financial report with more detail has recently been created and can be shared with administrators and sponsors about monies collected and spent.

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

### **CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER SITE**

Dr. Brubaker reported that the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Plan approved by Fort Smith and Barling voters in the May 2018 millage referendum includes a Career and Technology Center (CTC) to provide focused education and training in specialty areas within the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) disciplines. The millage proposal specified that an existing facility would be renovated.

Dr. Brubaker reported that a generous donor offered a site that includes a building that is highly desirable for this purpose. This gift from the Estate of William L. Hutcheson, Jr. can save the district the \$3 million budgeted within the Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program for building acquisition costs.

Dr. Morawski provided an overview of the proposed building and land. He reported that the property being offered is a warehouse building with 181,710 square feet, 16.9 acres and onsite parking. In addition to walk throughs with architects and the project management firm, a Phase One Environmental Study was also conducted.

After discussion, Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to authorize the superintendent to accept the donation of the property and negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the donation transaction. The vote passed 7/0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Mr. Mahan to present the professional staff recommendations. Mr. Mahan noted that there were no leaves of absence.

#### **Professional Staff Recommendations**

##### **Resignations**

Gorman, Kimberly  
Hurst, Emily  
Simmons, Benjamin  
Teal, Jennifer

##### **Retirements**

Sattazahn, Ralph  
Barker, Debra  
Turner, Vernetta  
Hess, Stacy  
Southerland, Mary  
Owen, Dr. Barry  
Tumminello, Allen  
Munsell, Frances  
Tiller, Carol  
Gauger, Sherri  
Pinkston, Christopher  
Woodward, Marcus  
Alexander, David  
Stepp, Teresa  
Larkin, Cynthia  
Brown, Stephen

Joplin, Linda  
Morocco, Ann  
Porta, Janie  
Hall, Margaret

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to accept the resignations and retirements as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

Employment  
Hanson, Patrick

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to approve the recommendation for employment as presented. The vote passed 7/0.

### **Succession Plan for Executive Leadership Positions**

Dr. Brubaker noted that with Dr. Barry Owen retiring at the end of June, 2019 and his announcement almost a month ago, this allowed time for the development of a strong succession plan that will ensure a smooth transition to new leadership within two key departments and fulfill the goals outlined in the Vision 2023 Strategic Plan. Mr. Mahan will begin to lead our instructional services team as our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Penix will serve as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Campus Support beginning July 1, 2019. Both held key administrative roles prior to these appointments.

This is an information item. No action is required.

### **Recognitions**

Ms. McFerran, Mr. Hanesworth and Dr. Brubaker recognized the following students and staff.

February Superintendent's Star Awards Winners: Brayan Ajanel, third-grader at Trusty Elementary, Timmy Carrier, fourth-grader at Woods Elementary, Katie Chavarria, fifth-grader at Howard Elementary, Jennyfer Chavez, Morrison Elementary, Chloe Connelly, first-grader at Cook Elementary, Jacqueline Espinoza, third-grader at Spradling Elementary, Edwin Gomez, fifth-grader at Carnall Elementary School, A'Journi Hamilton, fifth-grader at Sutton Elementary, Coleson Hurst, second-grader at Euper Lane Elementary, and Tatum Grace Loe, fifth-grader at Bonneville Elementary.

### **Student & Staff Recognitions**

Darby Junior High School Ninth Grade Band, directed by Angie Clark and Kimmons Junior High School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band directed by Chris Ha were recognized for being selected by competitive and blind audition last year as the 2019 All State Honor Bands representing their class and grade. This is the first time that two bands from the same district have been selected. Both

bands had spectacular performances at the Arkansas All State Music Conference on February 15 in Hot Springs, AR.

Kariman Alsein Southside High School, earned First Chair, Soprano 2 in the Mixed Chorus, Kennedy Ryan, Southside High School, earned First Chair, Trumpet in the Wind Symphony Yael Saucedo Northside High School, earned First Chair, Trombone in the Jazz Band

This year more than 80 students earned 102 positions in All-State Music groups. These students are directed by Sean Carrier, Gordon Manley, Gaye Mings, Katy Featherston, Curtis Hansen and Steven Hughes.

President's Service Award Winners: Two Southside students received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities. Jenna Drake, a senior, is a part of her worship team at New Life Church, volunteering there countless hours over the past three years. She also plays the cello in the Southside Orchestra. Ryan Keefer is a volunteer in the ER and in the Oncology department at Mercy where he has clocked more than 2,000 volunteer hours. Keefer is also in the WATC CNA program.

Southside Bowling Team Members Nathan Barrie, Ryan Beallis, Colby Harger, Dylan Humphries, Hunter Humphries, Hunter Salisbury, and Irvin Skotland, coached by Tadd Stewart, defeated their competition earning the 2019 6A State Bowling tournament title.

Christopher Davis, Northside High School assistant principal was recognized earning his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech University. Dr. Davis has been an assistant principal at Northside since 2016.

Dr. Doug Brubaker, superintendent, was among the nearly 40 superintendents and other administrators recognized for successfully completing the AASA National Superintendent Certification Program®, administered by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. This 18-month certification process is tailored for superintendents who have been in the job seven years or fewer. The forums, seminars and coaching include the following:

- Providing world-class instructional leadership;
- Building and managing a district budget;
- Mastering effective communication and political skills;
- Using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology effectively in instruction and management;
- Managing superintendent/school board relations; and
- Designing a career path for oneself.

### **PPC Election Update**

Dr. Brubaker gave an update on the Personnel and Policy Committee Election (PPC). He reported that there was a tie between two candidates at Belle Point and Kimmons

Jr. High. The runoff election round ends this evening at 11:59 p.m. He noted that the first PPC meeting is scheduled for February 28.

### **Current Bids and Proposals**

Mr. Warren presented information for current bids and proposals for 403(b) retirement plan consultant and advisor. He reported that this is an information item and no recommendation is required.

### **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 the current rate of 42.058 mills. This tax levy is the same rate approved by voters in the May, 2018 school election. This 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.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the proposed budget of expenditures and tax levy for 2020 - 2021 to be published as required by law. The vote passed 7/0.

### **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. 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 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. Another issue is 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 recommended that the Board authorize the superintendent to convey the .69 acres needed for the right of way of the new route of Highway 255 to FCRA so that it can be conveyed to ARDOT. The administration also recommended that the Board authorize the superintendent to convey the roughly one-acre triangular island between the current location of Wells Lake Road and the new location of Highway 255.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to 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. The vote passed 7/0.

### **BOARD MEMBERS FORUM**

Ms. Cole reported on attending the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Gilkey requested to meet with Mr. Warren about activity funds.

Ms. Richardson requested that Mr. Layes remind the public of the upcoming May 1 School Choice transfer process at the next board meeting and again at the April Board Meeting. She asked that he also address how that legal process affects student athletes.

Ms. McFerran reported that speaker Dr. Adolph Brown did a great job motivating students and others.

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present for citizen participation.

### **ADJOURN**

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

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Susan McFerran, President

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Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary