

Board of Education

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 September 23, 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, Ms. Talicia Richardson and Mr. Bill Hanesworth. Mr. Wade Gilkey, and Ms. Jeannie Cole were absent. 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 Laves, 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 present.

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

Ms. McFerran read the mission statement.

STUDENT, STAFF AND SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent's September Star Award Winners

Valeria Barillas, fifth-grader at Spradling Elementary
Amaya Brewer, fifth-grader at Euper Lane Elementary
Perla Cartagena, sixth-grader, Carnall Elementary
Anthony Chansyna, fifth-grader, Howard Elementary
Camden Danciu, fourth-grader, Morrison Elementary School
Kayla DePaz, sixth-grader, Bonneville Elementary School
Hayden Eckelhoff, sixth-grader, Cook Elementary School
Adelaide Fink, second-grader, at Woods Elementary
Kha'Madri Goodwin, fifth-grader, Trusty Elementary School
Khyllie Hilburn, fifth-grader, at Sutton Elementary School

Student & Staff Recognitions

2018-2019 Ramsey Quiz Bowl Team

The 2018-2019 Ramsey Junior High Quiz Bowl Team was recognized for their outstanding performance in the 2019 Arkansas and National Quiz Bowl competition. Team members are Leen Samman, Ella Friery, Micah Alt, Caroline Keck, Logan Chumley, Urvi Sharma, Jackson

Jennen, Jordan Kennedy, Kadence Douglas, Braeden Wear, Vincente Otero, Sam Pritchard, and Dipa Patel placed second in the New Orleans Quiz Bowl contest and earned a fourth-place overall ranking in the 2019 National Quiz Bowl Tournament. Team managers were Makenzie Burns, Quan Le and Olivia Jennings. They were advised by Amanda Jeremiah Allen.

National Merit Semi-Finalists

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes Nine students were recognized for their proven success on the 2019 PSAT. Benton Anderson, Northside High School, Mahdir Anower, Southside High School, Kenneth Clardy, Southside High School, Martina Gooden, Southside High School, Joshua Hannan, Southside High School, Heber Martin, Southside High School, Angelica Phan, Southside High School, Madison Settlege, Southside High School, and George Welsch, Southside High School.

Arkansas Imagination Library

Dr. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Parent & Community Services, was recognized for her nomination by Fort Smith Area United Way Executive Director Eddie Lee Herndon, and subsequently selected to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Arkansas affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No one was present for Citizens Participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Brubaker yielded to Ms. Penix to present the professional staff recommendations.

Professional Staff Recommendations

Resignations

Certified

Mullins, John

Classified

Castro Galdamez, Yesenia

Vaughn, Falen

Robinson, Summer

Waguespack, Andrea

Carlson, Roger

Hamilton, Elizabeth

Retirements

Certified

Garcia, Felipa

Classified

None

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to accept the recommendations for resignations and retirement as presented. The vote passed 5/0.

Employment

Certified

Pumphrey, Beau
Brasuell, Cherie
Johnson, Veronica
Oxford, Sabrian

Classified

Chapman, Scott
Goucher, Joshua
Friend, Darren
Harris, Adrienne
Racy, Stefanie

Leaves of Absence

Certified

None

Classified

Mason, Mary

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Magness, to approve the recommendations for employment and leave of absence as presented. The vote passed 5/0.

Current Proposals, Bids and Renewal

Mr. Warren reported that Horace Mann was selected for the Mutual Fund 403(b) Supplemental Retirement Plan. The method of selection was submission of Request for Proposals with five bids received. The District currently allows employees to withhold funds from his/her paycheck to pay supplemental retirement plan providers to invest in various 457 and/or 403(b) retirement plans, and primarily fixed annuity plans. The District had requested proposals for a

new 403(b) retirement plan to provide another option that would include lower, transparent fees. The new plan will mirror the corporate world's 401(k) plans, allowing employees to invest in a variety of mutual investment funds. Additionally, the District's coordination of this new plan will allow us to combine each individual's plan assets and negotiate lower costs as plan assets grow over time. The District plans to roll out the new plan this fall. This was an information item and no recommendation was required.

Report to the Public

Dr. Brubaker presented his annual report to the public highlighting Vision 2023 career education program planning, technology, instruction, wellness, equity, staffing and learning environments.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the minutes of the August 26 School Board Meeting and September 9 Work Session, August Financial Report, September Student Services Report and approval of the 2019-2020 Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Mr. Magness made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote passed 5/0.

USE OF ARVEST BANK VISA® CREDIT CARD

Mr. Warren reported that the District has successfully used an American Express® credit card since 2011 to pay vendors that accepted a credit card for payment. Since that time, there have been improvements in the credit card platform and rebate programs. Mr. Warren stated that the District released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a corporate credit card to take advantage of these improvements. Ten banks/providers, with supporting credit card platforms, responded, including five local banks. After reviewing internal controls, operational controls, transitional support, access to customer support and rebate structures, the administration's recommendation was to use Arvest Bank Visa® credit card with the Security BankCard Center, Inc. (SBC) platform.

The District will make credit card statement payments with an ACH/wire to Arvest Bank each month. To comply with Section 7.20 of the District's policies, the agreement authorization will also authorize the Disbursing Officer to include Arvest Bank as a vendor paid with an electronic fund transfer for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

As attorney for Arvest, Mr. Magness recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Hanesworth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement with Arvest Bank and SBC to provide corporate credit card services for the District. The vote passed 4/0.

COMMUNITY CODING CLUBS PRESENTATION

Ms. Eden Buerger, Technology Integration Specialist, presented information about the Fort Smith Public Schools Community Coding Clubs. The presentation included a recap of the year end activities, the summer coding collaboration with the public libraries, and plans to extend the clubs through the school year.

PRESENTATION - Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. George Watts, HPM and Dr. Morawski presented an update to board members on Vision 2023 Capital Improvement Projects related to Ramsey Junior High School, preconstruction updates at Northside, Southside, Career Technology Center, Darby Junior High School, security projects and wall projects at several schools.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

Ms. McFerran commended Principals Keri Rathbun and Lisa Miller on the AAIMS Assemblies held at both high schools.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Susan McFerran, President

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Secretary