

Regular School Board Meeting
June 21, 2010
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. and Ms. Shannon Blatt. Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin was not present. Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent, and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary to the superintendent, were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Gordon Floyd gave the invocation.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the May 24, 2010 school board minutes, minutes of the June 2, 2010 called board meeting, and the May Financial Report. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Gordon Floyd to review the professional staff recommendations.

Resignations

Cory Abbott
Leslie Hale
Matt Neissl

Retirement

JoAnn Buckner

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the resignations and retirements. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Kelsey D. Arnold
Kimberly K. Bennett
Ashley D. Britt
Kellie J. Brown
Stephen R. Brown
Amanda M. Chavez
Katana L. Ellis
Eileen T. Hale

Recommendations for Employment (Continued)

Sara R. Hattabaugh
Aaron P. Kareus
Kelly K. Lyles
Krystle E. Merry
Laura A. Moore
Dejah A. Park
Terri A. Phillips
Jolene A. Trotter
Kathryn L. Weaver
Rhonda E. McBride
Manesseh B. Moore

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Leave of Absence

Daniel Pena

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the leave of absence. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Gooden noted that the school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Two positions are open:

Position 6, Zone I currently held by Ms. Barbara Hathcock
Position 5, At Large currently held by Dr. David Hunton

The first day to circulate petitions is Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Petitions can be filed from Friday, July 16, 2010 through noon Friday, July 23, 2010.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that *Education Week, Diplomas Count Report*, had been published and once again, Fort Smith is on the list as one of 21 urban school districts, who "Beat the Odds" in high school graduation rates. The District scored an average of 10 percentage points higher than anticipated. Dr. Gooden noted that Fort Smith School District is characteristic of an "urban" school district with more than 68% of students on free and reduced lunch.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:**

Dr. Mehl recognized Dr. Hunton for the Finance Committee Report

Dr. Hunton made a committee recommendation to approve the proposed 2011-2012 proposed budget of expenditures to be published in the Times Record to comply with Arkansas statutes. The vote for approval was 6/0. (A copy of the budget is attached).

Dr. Hunton made a committee recommendation, to approve an agreement for legal services with Mr. Mitch Llewellyn for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2010 and extending through June 30, 2011 at an hourly rate of \$175.00.

Ms. Blatt asked Dr. Gooden if bids are taken for legal services for the district. Dr. Gooden noted that the state does not authorize school districts to bid for these services, and that he does not think it would be prudent to do so.

Ms. Blatt stated her concerns that, as stewards of public money, and during difficult economic times, perhaps the District should look at what other institutions, such as The City of Fort Smith and the Fort Smith Airport, pay for an attorney.

Mr. Wade stated that as an attorney for the City of Fort Smith, his firm updates resumes yearly and reapplies for the job as city attorney. He further stated that the process could be opened up and the most qualified attorney would be appointed.

Dr. Gooden stated that it was very advantageous for the District to have longevity with an attorney and the respect and trust of the Arkansas legislature. He proposed a study session with board members and Mr. Mitch Llewellyn to discuss.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to table the issue of renewing the agreement with Mr. Mitch Llewellyn and consider other attorneys. The vote to table the motion was defeated 4/2 with Ms. Cole, Ms. Hathcock, Dr. Hunton, and Mr. Wade opposed and Dr. Mehl and Ms. Blatt in favor.

Dr. Hunton made a committee recommendation to approve the agreement with Mitch Llewellyn for school attorney at \$175 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. The vote for approval was 5/1 with Ms. Blatt opposed.

Dr. Hunton made a Committee recommendation to approve insurance purchases as follows:

Equipment Breakdown - Brown-Hiller-Clark at \$11,627,
\$100,000,000 in coverage

Property - Brown-Hiller-Clark for \$623,655, an increase of \$31.00
\$355 million total value

Vehicle - Brown-Hiller-Clark for \$196,601, representing an increase
of \$21,948 including a change in vehicle requirement coverage
for collision and comprehensive as well as new units

ROTC Bond – Brown-Hiller-Clark for \$1,000.

The vote for approval was 6/0.

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Cole for the Curriculum Committee Report.

Ms. Cole made a Committee recommendation to approve

assurances associated with the application for a supplemental grant for summer activities to be funded by the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children Act. The vote for approval was 6/0.

PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Hathcock for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Hathcock made a committee recommendation to approve the low bid from Hobbs Construction Company for \$106,000 at Orr Elementary School and Hobbs Construction Company for \$79,000 for Ballman Elementary School. The projects are funded by ARRA and will be used for restroom renovation. The vote for approval was 6/0.

STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Mehl recognized Mr. Wade for the Student Affairs Committee Report.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to waive the reading of the board policies for students. The vote for approval was 6/0.

Mr. Wade a made Committee recommendation to approve board policies for students for second and final reading:

- IKFD - Smart Core Curriculum
- JECA - Admission
- JED - Guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences
- JFC - Student Conduct Not Permitted on School Premises
or at any Activity Related to School
- New Board Policy JGAA - Student Control

The vote for approval was 6/0.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

There were no comments for Board Members Forum

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary