

Regular School Board Meeting
September 27, 2010
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. Deanie Mehl, president, called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Dr. David Hunton, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Gordon Floyd, deputy superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and Dr. Barry Owen gave the invocation.

Dr. Gooden presented the 2010 Annual Report to the Public.

Dr. Mehl welcomed representatives from several different volunteer organizations that were present who support all students of the Fort Smith School District.

The Board had no items to be removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the August 23, 2010 school board minutes, and the August Financial Report. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

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

Resignations

Joanna Lever
Christopher Rink
Dustin Brown

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the resignations. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Recommendations for Employment

Amanda R. Dickinson
Barbara J. Evans
Hannah L. Massey
Lena E. R. Medlock
Alexandra L. Pillar
Mary K. Raynor
Magda E. White

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the recommendations for employment. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Gooden introduced Northside High School Principal Jim Garvey, who has recently returned from Afghanistan as a member of the 188th Arkansas Air National Guard. He presented flags flown in the war zone to two FSPS facilities in recognition of the support the District provides to these citizen airmen. Dr. Kellie Cohen was present from the Parker Center and Dr. Kathleen Cates was present from the Rogers Center to receive these flags.

Dr. Gooden noted that the District has received good news during the past few days that has provided significant funding in support of several initiatives. These include: (1) FEMA grants to support construction of storm shelters at Chaffin, Darby, Kimmons and Ramsey Junior High School campuses; (2) A school improvement grant to support several initiatives at Trusty Elementary School to target some of our lowest achieving students; (3) A maximum grant to support services to homeless students; and (4) a school improvement grant which will support initiatives at several schools in school improvement categories requiring outside intervention. The total impact of all these grants will be more than \$5 million--funds coming from federal sources to support local needs

Dr. Gooden also welcomed representatives from the several different volunteer organizations that support the Fort Smith School District. Members of the Children's Service League Board, Partners in Education Advisory Board, FSPS Foundation Board, City Council PTA Board and PTA Presidents were introduced and Dr. Gooden thanked them for their service and support for the Fort Smith Public Schools.

Dr. Gooden noted that the school board election was held Tuesday, September 21, 2010. Ms. Barbara Hathcock was elected to Position 6, Zone I, and Dr. David Hunton, Position 5, At Large. The vote for continuation of the 36.5 mill school tax was 369 for the tax and 171 against the tax. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to accept the returns as a matter of record, and incorporate the results into the minutes. The vote for approval was 7/0. (A certified copy of the school board election results is attached).

Dr. Mehl voiced her concern about the decision to reduce the number of polling places for the school board election. Dr. Mehl was opposed to reducing the number of polling places when the Board voted in August. She felt that clearly voter turnout was down due to confusion about where to vote and little signage for election polls.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:**

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Blatt for the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to dispense with the reading

of the Resolution for the refunding bond issue. The vote for approval was 7/0. Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the resolution for the refunding issue in the amount of \$3,255,000. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CURRICULUM
COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

Ms. Blatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the IDEA assurances for preschool and for elementary and secondary levels. The vote for approval was 7/0.

ELECTION OF NEW
OFFICERS:

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keaton-Martin, to nominate the 2010-11 school board officers as follows:

Ms. Shannon Blatt, President
Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Vice President
Dr. David Hunton, Secretary
Mr. Charles Warren, Treasurer

The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve Ms. Shannon Blatt as the Primary Board Disbursing officer and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. as the Alternate Board Disbursing officer.

The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Ms. Keaton-Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cole, to move the October Board Meeting to the third Monday, October 18, 2010 due to a conflict with Dr. Gooden's calendar. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There was no one present for citizen participation.

ADJOURN:

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Education
Page 4
September 27, 2010

Dr. Deanie Mehl, President

Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary