

Regular School Board Meeting
February 27, 2006
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin, president. Board members present were Ms. Shannon Blatt, Ms. Jeannie Cole, Ms. Barbara Hathcock, Dr. David Hunton, Dr. Deanie Mehl, and Mr. Wyman R. Wade, Jr. Also present were Dr. Benny Gooden, superintendent, Dr. Johnny Owen, deputy superintendent and Ms. Carolyn Kincaid, executive secretary.

Ms. Yvonne Keaton-Martin gave the invocation and Colonel Earl Massey and the JROTC Team were present to present Colors and lead the pledge of allegiance. Colonel Massey spoke briefly to the Board about the JROTC Teams at Northside High School.

Ms. Hathcock made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hunton, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2006, regular school board meeting. The vote for approval was 7/0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Dr. Benny Gooden yielded to Dr. Johnny Owen who reviewed the recommendations for employment and leaves of absence.

Recommendations for Employment

Robyn L. Fowler

Juan G. Martinez

Amy K. Rogers

Abbi E. Peoples

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

Leaves of Absence

Mary Burkett

Kimberly Heath

Amanda Ming

Misty Moreno

Tommye Thompson

Laurete Wright

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blatt, to approve the leaves of absence. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Johnny Owen reviewed the Student Services Report.

Dr. Gooden and Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized the District's band and orchestra awards. Southside students are Quinn Carson, first chair, first band, trombone and first chair, first band, Jazz Band, Mark Lewis first chair, first band, trumpet, first chair, double bass, all state orchestra, all state jazz band, trumpet; Devin Nelson, first chair, first band, french horn; Daniel Rice, first chair, first band percussion, Mike Rinne, first chair, first band, bass jazz band, all state orchestra, double bass, Kevin Staggs, first chair, first band, bass clarinet. Northside students are Ross Payne, first chair, first band, bass trombone, and Lam Pham, first chair, first band, bassoon, first chair, first band, bari sax, jazz band, all state orchestra, violin.

The Fort Smith Public Schools GATE teachers won the Act 56 2006 Recognition Award for Gifted and Talented Education Programs. The teachers are Sandy Aaron, Chaffin Junior High, Bill Becker Darby Junior High, Debbie Bentley, Carnall Elementary School, Vicki Ellison, Ramsey Junior High, Rosemary Geren, Woods Elementary School, Jan Kessler, Fairview Elementary School, Rhonda Moore, Euper Lane, and Lillian Silverstone, Cook Elementary School.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. David Hunton for the Finance Committee Report.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hathcock, to approve the Financial Report for the month of January. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Hunton made a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a Payroll Reduction (Employer Pick-Up) Resolution which must be adopted to preserve the tax status of employee contributions to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System as exempt from Federal Income Tax. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Hunton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve an advance payment on tail-end bonds in the amount of \$325,000 of bonded debt principal in accordance with bond covenants. The vote for approval was 7/0.

CURRICULUM
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Dr. Deanie Mehl for the Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Kathy Haaser to review the selection of elementary math textbooks.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve the Harcourt Series for elementary math textbooks. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl recognized Ms. Caroline Neel to review the selection for secondary math textbooks.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve the textbook selection Holt, Glencoe, McDougal, Houghton/McDougal, Thomson and Pearson/Prentice for secondary math textbooks. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl asked Mr. Arnol Shaw for his comments on the proposed 2006-2009 FSPS Technology Plan.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve the 2006-2009 FSPS Technology Plan. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Dr. Mehl asked Dr. Kellie Cohen for her comments on the 2005-06 ACSIP (Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan) for the Fort Smith School District.

Dr. Mehl made a recommendation from the Curriculum Committee to approve the 2005-06 FSPS ACSIP Plan. The vote for approval was 7/0.

PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Keaton-Martin recognized Ms. Jeannie Cole for the Properties Committee Report.

Ms. Cole made a recommendation from the Properties Committee to approve Beshears Construction for construction of tornado shelters at Cavanaugh, Carnall, and Morrison Elementary Schools with a total bid of \$2,329,200. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Cole made a motion from the Properties Committee to approve a resolution to participate in the Academic Facilities Partnership Program. The resolution will position the District to receive funds through a program established by the Arkansas Department of Education to help support school facility improvements. The vote for approval was 7/0.

Ms. Cole asked Dr. Gooden to comment on the proposed purchase of property at 2620 Wheeler Avenue for a new Transportation Center.

Dr. Gooden informed the Board that the District has outgrown the current transportation facility at the Service Center. Due to the large volume of traffic at the Service Center and future traffic increase with the widening of Jenny Lind, the District proposes to buy 4 acres of property on Wheeler Avenue, formerly Ridout Lumber Company. This location is ideal for this purpose and has buildings on the property the District could utilize. Also, the location is centrally located to the service center and easily accessible.

Ms. Cole made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the purchase of the property at 2620 Wheeler Avenue for \$455,000. The vote for approval was 7/0.

BOARD MEMBERS
FORUM:

Mr. Wade inquired about the upcoming basketball tournaments and that Northside would be playing.

Ms. Cole stated that she had recently attended a number of PTA Founders Luncheons in the District. She noted that Mr. Wade had recently received a lifetime membership award for his participation with the PTA at Woods Elementary.

CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION:

There were no requests to speak.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, President

Wyman R. Wade, Jr., Secretary